

THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER OF SPORT

ENGLAND REBORN

Bobby Robson on a team full of new confidence PAGE 48

PLUS: Tunku Varadarajan on Anglo-Spanish hostilities, PAGE 20

BEST FOR BOOKS

Malcolm Bradbury on Jay McInerney
Iain McIntyre: Henry Irving & Dracula
Jan Morris on the icy English

PLUS: the latest secrets of Stonehenge PAGES 36, 37

CENSORED SCHIFFER

THE RISQUE NEW WORLD OF UNDERWEAR ADVERTISEMENTS PAGE 18

WANTED

Adviser 75K
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TOP JOBS SECTION 3

67,000 more cattle may be killed

Britain offers concession to end beef war

BY CHARLES BREMNER, MICHAEL HORNSBY AND PHILIP WEBSTER

BRITAIN yesterday offered to slaughter up to 67,000 more cattle in an effort to reach a deal to end the "beef war" before the EU summit in Florence tomorrow.

But Labour and farmers accused the Prime Minister of a massive retreat in agreeing to include cows born in 1989 in the selective cull designed to eradicate BSE — a step the Government previously rejected as unworkable and unnecessary.

The National Farmers' Union said that there was no justification for the extra cull as none of the animals would have entered the food chain, and Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, said the Government had settled for a piece of paper that offered no dates and no guarantees, simply to get a deal.

The climbdown on the extended slaughter came at a meeting of European veterinary experts as London and Brussels edged towards agreement on a framework to lift the ban on British beef exports.

The plan involves careful scrutiny of every British move to wipe out the disease and does not suggest when the embargo may be lifted. Even so, Germany and three other states were resisting it yesterday: they want cows born in 1988 slaughtered as well.

Under the British concession, up to 67,000 cattle could be killed, on top of the 150,000 or so already identified as being at special risk of developing BSE. But Downing Street said it was a "theoretical maximum" and the real figure was likely to be nearer 25,000, since many may have died or been slaughtered already under the scheme to keep cows out of the food chain.

Besides the slaughter, the European Commission wants



"Takes the edge off the feel-good factor"

to see an effective identification programme for all cattle and the confirmed destruction of all animal-based food and the cleaning of premises where it has been stored. The framework also requires every step that Britain takes to be policed by inspectors and approved by both existing EU machinery and a specially created super-committee of experts.

The eventual lifting of the export ban would cover first animals from grass-fed herds that are certified BSE-free, then calf embryos, followed by animals born after a specific date and their meat, meat from animals under 30 months and finally, all bovine meat.

Given all the conditions, it is clear that it will be months before any approval can be expected for lifting even the first phase of the ban. But Jacques Santer, the Commission President, said yesterday: "Lifting the embargo is not the priority for us. It is the measures to eradicate the disease."

Mr Major's apparent readiness to embrace the Commission plan was derided by Mr Cook as a massive retreat last

night. "In order to get a deal, the Government has surrendered to an extra cull which it had previously ruled out. They have not even got a guarantee in return that the ban will be phased out."

It was precisely that absence of guarantees that persuaded France and several other states to support the plan at the risk of enraging domestic public opinion. But it also means that Britain may still not accept the plan as it stands, in spite of its desire to put an end to the crisis caused by its blocking policy. More than eighty measures have been frozen as a result of the British tactics and both London and Brussels are anxious to reach a deal to prevent the disruption of tomorrow's summit.

Mr Santer gave Britain a stern warning yesterday that the deal was the best it could hope for, but the Government will nevertheless press for a better one tomorrow, including the resumption of exports to countries outside the EU — a notion described by Mr Santer yesterday as unethical.

Britain believes the global ban to be illegal and Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, was in Luxembourg arguing that case in the European Court as the Commission was negotiating on the framework in Brussels yesterday.

Sir Nicholas said the ban was illegal because it was based on protecting consumer confidence rather than on scientific evidence. "No food is totally risk-free, and there is no conceivable justification for the ban," he said. The Commission's lawyers insisted that it was justified on health grounds and an interim ruling is expected in two weeks.

Farmers furious, page 2
Peter Riddell, page 8



Tracy Mitchell, a marketing executive from Newport Pagnell, who took a day off work to get tickets for England's quarter-final match at Wembley

So this then is the feel-good factor at last

BY JOE JOSEPH

SO NOW we know. The feel-good factor is not just around the corner, as Kenneth Clarke always promised. It's in the back of the net (Shearer 2, Sheringham 2).

In 90 minutes, and four goals, football had done what a thousand speeches by government ministers, and a hundred election promises by Tony Blair, have failed to do. England feels great about itself, almost invincible — not just on the football field, but in business, the Olympic Games, politics, you name it.

A David once anxious about its economy, its sporting prowess, its beef, has turned overnight into a Goliath. If you're looking for a fight, look elsewhere. Plunge your thermometer anywhere into England's psyche today and it emerges glowing red with patriotic fever. To borrow a phrase from a famous Dutch lager's advertising campaign — only a big English sporting triumph can do this.

"I welcome it," said Alan Clark, diarist and former MP. "It reflects a very deep-seated emotion that no amount of politically-correct brainwashing will eradicate — that we are better than anyone else, and that the more often we can demonstrate that the better. It illuminates a very strong and deep-seated sense of patriotism. The people have got it very deep in their veins."

The fact that football, after years as a thugs' game, has become fashionable enough to spawn cultish novels and late-night discussions on BBC2 has doubled the impact. People who only last week assumed Gazza was maybe a new pasta sauce, are now experts on midfield strategy. We are all football supporters now.

"Wasn't it forever thus," says Henry Blofeld, whose cheery voice enlivens Radio 3's cricket commentaries. "Can you think back to 1966? I can. I remember Botham's 149 not out at Headingley in 1981 against Australia, which enabled England to win. I was

commentating at the time. I gather that down motorways the hooting of horns was extraordinary. We are a curious nation like that."

"I think it's rather nice that things that are quite fun can make us happy. Going overboard about sporting triumphs is rather delightful. People take their lives so seriously. A sporting triumph lifts us out of ourselves."

When England played Holland 4-1, a blend of English disbelief and elation provoked yelps of happiness and a mass hooting of car horns. Evoking memories of England's 1966 World Cup triumph, fans gathered in Trafalgar Square to chant, "Bring on the Germans" — England's cup final victims in 1966 and Euro 96 favourites. Motorists in Trafalgar Square were waving

flags from their windows. It was more Milan or Barcelona than London.

Sir Ranulph Fiennes, who has known triumph and disaster on his polar explorations, says it all comes down to "feeling good because you identify with the winning side. I don't think it's got anything to do with the football element of it. It comes back to identifying yourself with the goodies. In the old days, it was hearing news of winning at Agincourt. It's really to do with egoism: our boys done well — we have done well." But he warns: "I think it can dissipate just as quickly."

Tunku Varadarajan, page 20
Leading article, page 21
Reports, pages 45 and 48

Windfall tax

Privatised utilities would be forced to pay a windfall tax on exceptionally high profits under a Labour government, it has emerged. The favoured status enjoyed by the nuclear power industry would also be reviewed. Page 25

Win for Portugal

Portugal beat Croatia 3-0 to finish top of Group D in the Euro 96 championships. The Croatians also go through to the quarter-finals. In the other match in the group, the defending champions Denmark beat Turkey 3-0. Page 48

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Redwood demands an EMU election

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN REDWOOD calls on John Major today to open up a new front against Tony Blair by ruling out a single currency for the lifetime of the next Parliament and fighting the election on Europe.

As Mr Major tried to recreate a truce between his party's opposing wings by strongly defending membership of the European Union while ruling out any centralised federal structures, Mr Redwood is reigniting the debate about monetary union.

Writing in *The Times*, he seizes on Mr Blair's strongly pro-European message in Bonn on Tuesday to declare that a tough stance now against the single currency could help the Tories to win the election.

He writes: "Money makes the world go round. It can also help the Government win the next election. Ken Clarke holds in his hand the keys to a renewed popular mandate. The issue of whether to keep the pound or not is central to whether we continue as a Europe of nations or move on to a single currency governed from Brussels or Frankfurt." If Mr Major ruled out a

single currency for the next Parliament, the Tories could turn their fire on Mr Blair and "see how many of his followers really do want Britain to surrender the pound and commit herself to the whims of foreign central bankers".

He adds: "It would give Conservative candidates a new enthusiasm, something to sell: Vote Conservative and keep your country."

Mr Redwood's demand has little chance of being accepted as it stands, but a concerted effort is under way to try to persuade Mr Major to take a highly sceptical line on monetary union in the election manifesto. Under a painstakingly crafted Cabinet compromise designed to keep Mr Clarke and others on board, Mr Major has agreed to leave open the option of joining a single currency but has promised a referendum if the Cabinet decides to go into one.

Mr Major's speech on the future of Europe yesterday in London repeated that stance. Continued on page 2, col 1

Euro fightback, page 9
John Redwood, page 20
Heart of Europe, page 29



Clues in hunt for bombers

Police yesterday issued this E-fit likeness of the man who handed over the cash to buy the lorry used in last Saturday's Manchester bombing.

They also issued descriptions of the two IRA men who planted the bomb. Both wore dark hooded clothing and sunglasses.

The first, the lorry driver, is described as white, aged between 20-30, slim and between 5ft 8in and 5ft 10in tall. He was wearing a navy blue hooded sweatshirt and a dark blue kagool-type jacket. The second, the lorry's passenger, is white, aged between 30-40, of medium build and about 6ft. He was wearing a grey hooded sweatshirt and a dark blue kagool. He was possibly wearing jeans.

Foreigners face test in legal aid reform

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

ABUSES of the £1.5 billion legal aid scheme which allow foreigners to bring costly commercial court cases on public funds would be stopped under government plans to be published next month.

Proposals by Lord Mackay of Clashfern for the biggest shake-up in legal aid since the scheme began 40 years ago will also seek to curb its open-ended costs by imposing the first cash limits on the legal aid budget.

A central plank of the White Paper, expected to be published on July 2, is likely to be a new "deservingness" test, which will stop aid for those who do not merit it.

Although there will be no automatic bar on legal aid for foreign nationals, as some MPs want, the new test would stop legal aid being paid out for cases such as that brought by a German citizen at a cost of £500,000 to sue Sony in a dispute over who invented the Walkman. There was an outcry by MPs in the wake of the Sony case in March and an inquiry was carried out by the Lord Chancellor.

The White Paper is predicted to pave the way for a

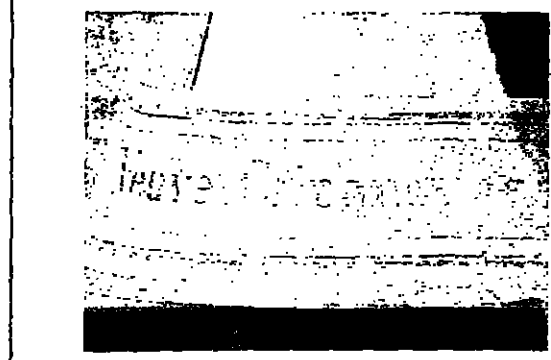
radical shake-up of legal aid, much of which could be brought into force without Government legislation.

The main thrust of the reforms is to re-direct legal aid so it is more effectively spent. Legal services, Lord Mackay believes, can be effectively provided by people other than lawyers and in ways other than by litigation. Not only law firms but advice bureaux and para-legals will be granted contracts to offer legal services.

The Government is also examining giving legal aid to people who are handling their own cases, as well as for mediation and other forms of settling disputes outside court — "alternative dispute resolution": information points to tell people what services are on offer are planned.

The main White Paper proposals are likely to be a cash limit on the overall legal aid budget, but with flexibility between its three parts — criminal, civil and family.

This would mean that if there was a surge in demand for criminal legal aid, it could be met, but at the expense of

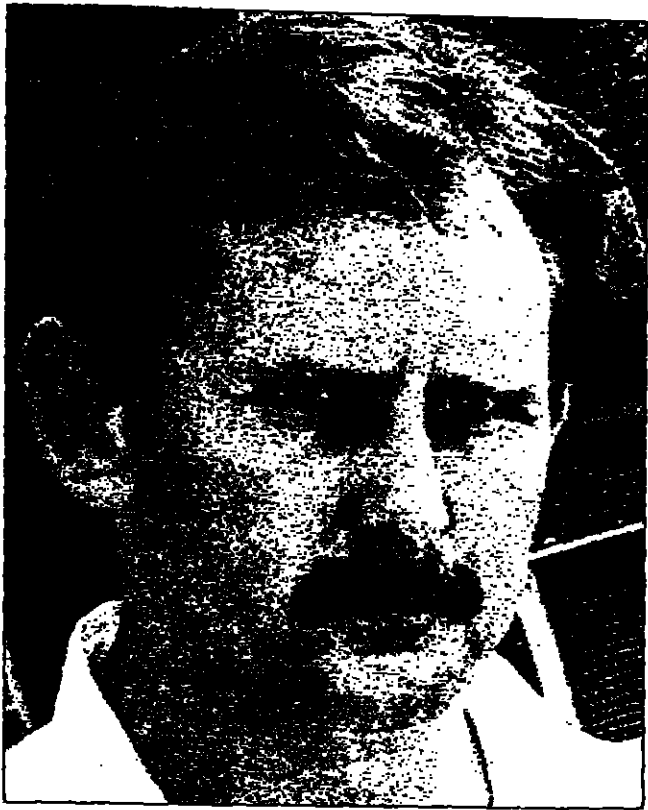


ROYAL ASCOT	18-21 June
2ND CORNHILL TEST MATCH 3 INDIA, LORD'S	20-24 June
GABRIELSON OPERA	28 June-14 July
WIMBLEDON YOUNG CHAMPIONSHIPS	24 June-7 July
SCOTTS THE ISLAND RACE, LILE OF WIGHT	29 June
VEYNE CLEQUOT GOLD CUP POLO, COWDRAY PARK	29 June-21 July
HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA	5-7 July
HAMPTON COURT PALACE INTERNATIONAL FLOWER SHOW	9-14 July
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Veve Clicquot
CHAMPAGNE OF THE SEASON

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Clerk killed solicitor eight years after sacking



Death on the doorstep: John Vine, left, knocked on the door of the Victorian mansion and stabbed Nigel Lightfoot, right, whose wife was near by. The night attack was described in court as "every married woman's nightmare"

By ADRIAN LEE

Attacker said 'You bastard, look at your beautiful home'

A WEALTHY solicitor was stabbed to death at his home by a clerk who harboured an eight-year grudge after being sacked for stealing £150, a court was told yesterday.

The killer, John Vine, 39, knocked on the door of the Victorian mansion in the late evening after making sure that Nigel Lightfoot, 60, was alone. Mr Lightfoot, 60, answered and was knifed three times as his attacker shouted: "You bastard, look at your beautiful home."

Susan Lightfoot heard her husband scream and ran to the hall to see him staggering upstairs, fol-

lowed by Mr Vine. Guy Boney, QC, for the prosecution, said the scene "was every married woman's secret nightmare — a sudden intruder forces his way into the house late at night, carries out a quick and murderous attack, and in the space of a few seconds destroys family life built up over many years."

After the killing in Bursledon, Hampshire, Mr Vine helped Mrs Lightfoot to cushion her dying husband's head with a duvet, then telephoned police. He also showed her pictures of his children. When

the first officer arrived at the house, he was claimed to have said: "It's me, I stabbed him."

During interviews with police, he allegedly said that by killing the senior partner, he hoped to have a chance to air his grievances at his trial. Mr Vine denies murder and will claim manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility or provocation.

Winchester Crown Court was told he had been dismissed from the Southampton law firm of Lamport Bassitt in 1987 after a

private detective investigating petty theft implicated him in the loss of about £150. Mr Vine, of Thornhill, Southampton, denied involvement, but was unsuccessful in challenges at a tribunal and the county court. He staged a series of protests at company offices, and served four jail terms for breaking injunctions to stay away.

"Over the years, you may think, there is no doubt that Mr Vine developed a king-size grudge against Lamport Bassitt in general and Mr Lightfoot in particular."

Mr Boney said, Mr Vine blamed the law company for the "unsatisfactory turn" his life took. He allegedly told police that he bought his 12in commando knife to kill Mr Lightfoot at Christmas 1994 when he believed his marriage was breaking up, but shelved the plan after a reconciliation. The killing happened last September after his Social Security benefit was cut.

Mr Boney said it was a meticulously planned murder, and not an impulse. Mr Vine, also armed with an iron bar, cycled to Mr

Lightfoot's home, taking a coat, hat, scarf and gloves. He lay in wait for five hours until, at 10.20pm, Mr Lightfoot's son James had gone for a drink with his girlfriend, leaving only the couple in the house.

In a statement read to the jury, Mrs Lightfoot said she thought the knocking at the door might be her son, having forgotten something, but then she heard her husband's screams and saw him reel from the stabbing. "He was staggering backwards with his arms out, steadying himself. He was saying,

"Go away, go away, why are you doing this? I was terrified." She repeatedly asked Mr Vine his reasons. At one point he pulled out a wallet, showed her photographs of his three children, and said: "This is why. I am not going to hurt you, it's your husband, the bastard, he knows who I am."

Mr Lightfoot, also a father of three, was stabbed twice in the arm and once in the chest. Mrs Lightfoot, his wife for 33 years, used mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and telephoned police, at one stage hiding the receiver down the side of a settee. Mr Vine asked what she was doing and called the emergency services. The trial continues.

Duchess's sister files for Bryan's bankruptcy

By EMMA WILKINS

THE Duchess of York's sister has filed a bankruptcy petition against John Bryan in a legal battle over her wedding photographs, which appeared in *Hello!*

Jane Luedecke and her husband Reiner are seeking to retrieve an estimated £30,000 in legal costs which they incurred when fighting Mr Bryan at the High Court in London. The petition, to be heard in the bankruptcy division of the High Court next month, brings further financial embarrassment for Mr Bryan, whose German construction company collapsed recently with debts estimated at £10 million.

Mr Bryan, the Duchess's former holiday companion, was ordered in July 1994 to pay the Luedeckes £55,000 damages, plus interest and legal costs. The couple, whose marriage featured in a 22-page spread in *Hello!*, claimed Mr Bryan had breached his duty when negotiating on their behalf with the magazine.

The Duchess attended the wedding of her elder sister in Sydney, Australia. Her daughters, Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie, were bridesmaids. While the magazine declined to confirm that it paid £200,000 for the exclusive coverage, it is understood that the couple received about £55,000 less than expected.

Kathryn Garrett, the Luedeckes' solicitor, said that the action was a private matter. Earlier this year Mr Bryan gave an interview to a Sunday newspaper disclosing intimate details of his relationship with the Duchess.

Tycoon's family ambushed by Rolex robbers

By DIANA THORP

THE wife of one of Britain's wealthiest men told yesterday how she fought off five muggers who attacked her and her twin sons.

Helen Moran, wife of the tycoon Christopher Moran, bit one of the thieves on the arm as they grappled on the floor of a private underground garage. One of her eight-year-old sons, Jamie, was punched in the chest as he tried to protect his mother.

Mrs Moran, 38, became the latest victim in a spate of thefts of Rolexes when the robbers escaped with her £15,000 watch. Mr Moran, who had given the watch as a present, said the gang had slipped into the car park beneath the family's home in Chelsea as Mrs Moran drove through the electronic gates.

Mrs Moran said that one of the gang grabbed her around the neck as she got out of her Range Rover. "My first thoughts were to protect my children. I started struggling to get the person off. I was doing everything I could and I bit him on the arm quite hard. I was shouting and screaming, telling the boys, 'Get away, get help.'"

"My boys were shouting at the gang, 'Get off, go away and leave us alone.' They came over and tried to pull the man off me. They were very brave and I'm very proud of them."

Mrs Moran, who has decided not to wear an expensive watch in public, thought that the gang had been spying on her to learn her routine. She said the attack had left her with a lump "the size of a goose egg" on her head.



Moran: £15,000 watch

The theft is the latest in a series of Rolex robberies, following a trend in the United States where at least three people have died protecting their watches.

Sergeant Malcolm Cameron, from Chelsea police station, said it was not clear whether the robbery had been planned. But he said that the case differed from "regular" Rolex robberies because of its location — they are usually stolen from shoppers on the street — and the size of the gang.

At least one Rolex is stolen each week from shoppers in the Chelsea area, which includes some of the most expensive shopping streets in London. Other Rolex robbery victims have included Gail Ronson, wife of the tycoon Gerald Ronson, and Lisa Sachs, wife of the broadcaster John Sachs.

Mr Moran, whose fortune is estimated at £200 million, is spending £25 million to convert Crosby Hall, on the Thames embankment at Chelsea, into the couple's London residence. He also owns thousands of acres in Scotland.

Crofter's wife finds Internet romance

By CAROL MIDDLELEY

A CROFTER'S wife in the Highlands has separated from her husband after finding romance through the Internet with a Baptist preacher from West Africa.

Rhona Bowes, who lives in the village of Skerry on the northern coast of Scotland, fell in love after exchanging hundreds of computer messages over two weeks with Sheku, 36, who does not want his surname made public.

Mrs Bowes hopes to start a new life with him in London, where he has a cleaning business. Her husband David, 31, has moved out of their home to live in a caravan. Both are seeking custody of their three children.

Mrs Bowes, 28, joined the Internet last year and became hooked. She was lonely while her husband was out working with his sheep and attending Gaelic committees. The nearest cinema is 100 miles away.

"It made me realise what I was missing and that there must be more to life. David had his crofting and his committees and other interests but I had nothing," she said.

"The only person I would see was the postman. When I started talking to Sheku on the computer it was amazing how much we had in common."

The couple eventually met in London last year and talk on the telephone every day. Sheku has visited Mrs Bowes in Skerry. She and her husband, who took over the abandoned croft eight years ago, tell their story tonight in a new Channel 4 series *Postcards From the Edge*.

Handymen 'terrorised family'

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A MOTHER told the Old Bailey yesterday that her family was terrorised after she refused to pay handymen for shoddy work. Denise Durant said she was threatened with acid and iron bars, and was followed as she took her children to school.

When she agreed to pay, she was told it was too late because the matter had become "personal", it was claimed. Ms Durant, from Stamford Hill, north London, wept as she gave evidence. She said she had hired Carlton Gayle to decorate her house in last July and paid him £1,600. He brought an electrician,

Duncan Murphy, to help him. "Murphy did a very bad job. The wallpaper was overlapping and two different wallpapers were used in the attic."

She withheld a final payment of £400 after Mr Gayle fitted a new kitchen without her consent, but he told her: "I will smash your kitchen up if you don't pay." That was the start of five months of fear, Ms Durant said. "We began getting calls in the middle of the night. They told me my partner was going to die."

Mr Gayle was said to have followed as she took her children, aged seven and 12, to school, and came to her front door brandishing a piece of wood, threatening to hit her and her boyfriend, Wilmot

Jeremiah. Ms Durant said she was warned that Mr Murphy's brother was involved in guns. Another time Mr Durant shouted from his car window: "You are going to get acid thrown in your face."

She had seen Mr Gayle enter her boyfriend's van and steal his disco equipment, she claimed. She alerted the police after she was lured to an alley with her partner: "A gun was held to my head. Then it was pressed into my neck."

Mr Gayle, 33, from Clapton, east London, denies blackmail and robbery. Mr Murphy, 32, from Tottenham, north London, denies two charges of perverting the course of justice. The trial continues.

Extradition likely on 1967 shooting

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A DRIFTER due for release from prison in California was last night expected to face extradition to Britain over the murder of a former Grenadier Guardsman who intervened in a London bank raid 29 years ago.

Arthur Jackson, 60, who has been serving time for stabbing an actress, became the focus of police interest in London after he allegedly wrote to the British consul in Los Angeles in connection with the shooting of Anthony Fletcher, 33, outside a bank in Knightsbridge in 1967.

Mr Fletcher, from Liverpool, was shot as he chased a gunman after the robbery. He was posthumously awarded the George Cross for his bravery. It was a killing that chilled the nation and from which was coined the phrase "have-a-go hero".

Jackson, from Edinburgh, was once a record company



Arthur Jackson, left, and Anthony Fletcher GC

technician. He was given a 13-year sentence at Vacaville Prison for the attempted murder of Theresa Saldana, who appeared in *Raging Bull*. She was stabbed outside her house on Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood.

Police investigating the Knightsbridge robbery interviewed more than 5,000 people and took 1,800 statements, but the murder re-

mained unsolved. After Jackson wrote his letter, Scotland Yard detectives flew to the US and returned with fingerprint evidence.

Jackson was expected to be rearrested by Scotland Yard detectives upon his release from the state prison in northern California. A warrant issued six years ago in connection with the murder of Mr Fletcher is still valid and is

expected to be used to try to extradite him. Scotland Yard and the Crown Prosecution Service declined to discuss the extradition arrangements involved in the case.

The police files are understood to have revealed more than 30 witnesses to the killing who are still alive and available to give evidence in any prosecution.

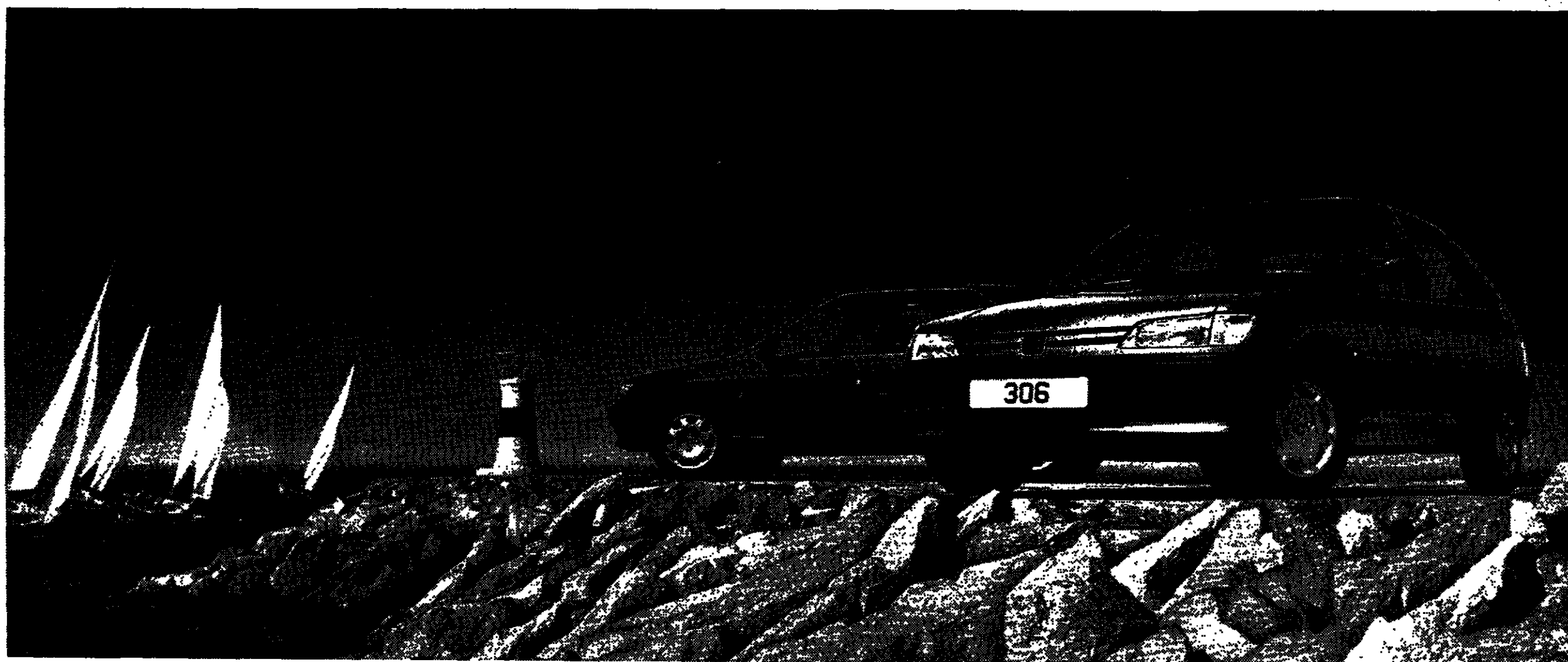
Mr Fletcher, who was unarmed, had said to witnesses: "Let's get him — he has only got a starting pistol and we have got him cornered." He ran after the gunman and ordered him to "Drop it". But the gun was real and seconds later, Mr Fletcher was killed by a single shot. The gunman fled with only £150, after injuring two other men in the chase.

More than £30,000 was subsequently raised for Mr Fletcher's widow Valerie. His son, Martin, of Moreton, on the Wirral, has declined to comment on the case.

PUBLIC WEALTH WARNING

See page 5

PEUGEOT ANNOUNCE AN INCLUSIVE EXCLUSIVE.



This summer, Peugeot launch two new 306 specials with enough supplements to make them the package deals of the year.

The "Genoa" and "Spinnaker" combine a maritime flavour with a vast amount of added value that includes delivery, number plates and six months road fund licence.

Drive-away prices* for both have hit the deck.

The "Genoa" is priced at £10,795† while the "Spinnaker" is available from just £11,895†.

With five doors and a 1.4 litre engine, the "Genoa" has plenty of extras to go overboard about. There's a tilting glass sunroof, 'plip' central locking, power steering and body colour bumper skirts.

DRIVE AWAY PRICE

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The other addition to the Peugeot 306 fleet is the "Spinnaker"

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Another five door model, the "Spinnaker" offers a choice of 1.6 litre petrol, or 1.9 litre turbo diesel power.

Like the "Genoa," the "Spinnaker" features unique badging and comes in stunning Tropical green or Sigma blue metallic paint.

For further information on the 306 Summer Specials call 0345 306 306* now or visit your local Peugeot dealer.

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THE DRIVE OF YOUR LIFE



Widow in passport row tells of night in a Brussels cell

By CAROL MIDGLEY

A GREAT grandmother who spent a night in a cell in Brussels, and was deported the next day for forgetting her passport, will return undaunted to the Belgian capital today. "There is no way I am going to let them spoil my holiday," Enid Wilson said.

The 76-year-old widow, who left her passport in a travel bag at her home in Bridlington, East Yorkshire, on Monday, said she was made to feel like a criminal when she was arrested in a single cell at a detention centre in the Gare du Midi.

Officials refused to accept the assurances of her son Andrew, 47, a senior EU official, and of a British consul, that she was a bona fide British citizen. They forced her to leave on the 6.40am train to Waterloo station, from where she had taken the Eurostar the previous day.

Speaking at her son Anthony's home at Farnham Com-

mon, Buckinghamshire, Mrs Wilson said: "The whole thing is quite ridiculous. What do they think I was trying to do, smuggle in a ton of hashish? Andrew was extremely angry at the way they treated me. He is a fluent French speaker and quoted the Treaty of Rome at them which is supposed to give citizens the right to travel freely within the Community."

But the Belgians just kept quoting the Schengen Agreement which Britain hasn't signed and which gets rid of the need for passport controls in some European countries."

Mrs Wilson, who served with the WAAF during the Second World War, said she had realised her mistake while travelling from Bridlington to Waterloo. However, the trains were running late and she did not have time to ask advice before boarding the Eurostar.

Having visited her son in Brussels many times during the 18 years he worked for the

agriculture directorate, she assumed that when she reached Brussels she would simply have to fill out a few forms and then be allowed in.

"When I told them what I'd done at the station they took me into an office, got my son and started to interview me. I still thought it was just a formality to be got out of the way. Eventually a man from the Ministry of Immigration arrived and said that I would have to leave on the first train in the morning."

"He was very bureaucratic and rather unpleasant. I couldn't believe it. I was shattered. My son asked if he could at least take me to his house for the night to have dinner but they wouldn't listen to any argument at all."

"I was then taken down this labyrinth of corridors to a room. It had white tiles with a single bed and a basin with a cold tap. The blanket was rather smelly but the sheets



Mrs Wilson recounting her experiences yesterday. "The matter could have been handled more sensitively"

were clean. I wasn't offered any food and my son went off to get me some sandwiches and something to drink."

At 6.15am on Tuesday she was taken up to the station platform, where her son was allowed to buy her coffee and croissants. She was forced to board 20 minutes before ev-

eryone else in a seat designated by the captain of the train.

When she arrived at Waterloo, the woman who took her deportation papers "couldn't believe it". "She said that if it had been a Belgian coming to Britain without a passport we would have let her in. She even remembered a 90-year

old woman in a wheelchair who was sent back from Brussels for forgetting her passport."

Mrs Wilson's passport was couriered to Buckinghamshire and today she resumes her week-long holiday with her son. "It was a silly thing to do, I admit it, but people do forget

passports. You would think they had plans to deal with it. The matter could have been handled more sensitively to say the least."

Freddie Rosemont, head of immigration at the Belgian Interior Ministry, said: "Our staff were doing their job as laid down by the rules."

Children aged 7 given own TV sets

By ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN as young as seven are being bought televisions for Christmas and birthdays. Nearly 50 per cent of seven to eight-year-old boys and 40 per cent of girls of the same age have their own television sets and about 11 per cent have video recorders, according to a study published yesterday.

Thirty per cent of children in the same age group say they watch television after the 9pm family viewing watershed during the week, rising to nearly 70 per cent at weekends. By the age of 13, nearly all children are watching after the watershed.

Steve Cordingley of Market Assessment Publications, which published the report, said that the research had thrown up some "wholesome elements". "The kids who consume most television are the most active ones; they are the ones who do the most sport and other activities. The number of children who are couch potatoes seems relatively small."

Patients seek £20m over blood infection

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A CAMPAIGN was launched by haemophiliacs yesterday to secure more than £20 million compensation for patients who caught hepatitis C through NHS treatment with contaminated blood products.

The Government had a moral duty to treat the hepatitis sufferers in the same way as haemophiliacs infected with HIV, the Haemophilia Society said. Ministers set up a £70 million compensation fund for the 1,200 haemophiliacs infected with HIV through contaminated blood products.

More than 3,000 people with haemophilia were infected with hepatitis C before heat treatment of blood products was introduced in 1986. The infection was not recognised until the early 1990s.

The virus causes chronic liver disease and more than 55 of those infected have died from liver failure. It is estimated that between 50 and 80 per cent of those infected will develop severe liver problems.

Launching the campaign at an all-party meeting of MPs yesterday, Prebendary Alan Tanner, chairman of the society, said: "People are suffering hardship. Many are ill and unable to work, more are suffering from chronic liver disease and some have developed cirrhosis and cancer. There is a clear moral case for the Government to act."

Arrest in woodland rape case

A man was arrested yesterday in connection with the abduction and rape at gunpoint of a 16-year-old girl as she walked through woodland near Havant, Hampshire, with her boyfriend. Police, some armed, took a man for questioning after raiding a house in Havant at 3am. A gun and a knife were recovered from the house. The girl was walking through Havant Thicket on Monday evening when she was abducted.

Sex attack on girl

A girl aged 12 was raped on Monday as she played with friends in a park in Carshalton, southwest London. A man, described as 5ft 8in and in his early 20s, took her to waste ground on the edge of the park before assaulting her.

Smoker fined

An airline passenger who lit a cigarette was fined £400 with £200 costs in a case brought by the Civil Aviation Authority. Keith Howells, 55, from Thornbury, near Bristol, smoked in the lavatory on a four-hour flight to Tenerife.

Shock purchase

A woman who bought a bag of broccoli at Tesco in Whitstable, Kent, sliced a live, poisonous Spanish water viper in half when she cut into it. Janet Pillow, said Tesco seemed as shocked as she was. The company has apologised.

Riderless jet ski travels 400 miles

A BUSINESSMAN who fell from his jet ski off the coast of Eastbourne was reunited with it yesterday at Newcastle upon Tyne, 400 miles away (Kathryn Knight writes).

Michael Croissant, 30, gave up hope of seeing his £3,000 jet ski again after he was knocked off by a powerful wave near Beachy Head, East Sussex.

But several miles out to sea the motoring jet ski was spotted by a passing boat, which picked it up and towed it to Newcastle. Mr Croissant,

of Crawley, West Sussex, was reunited with his jet ski after driving north to pick it up.

Mr Croissant, who has a double-glazing firm, said: "After I was knocked off there was no cut-off to make the engine stop and it just carried on out to sea. But I was waiting in the police station to report it missing when I found out the tug had discovered it. They were delivering a crane to Newcastle and took it with them. They told the coastguard, who then contacted the police."

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Unknown Mozart aria discovered in garret

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

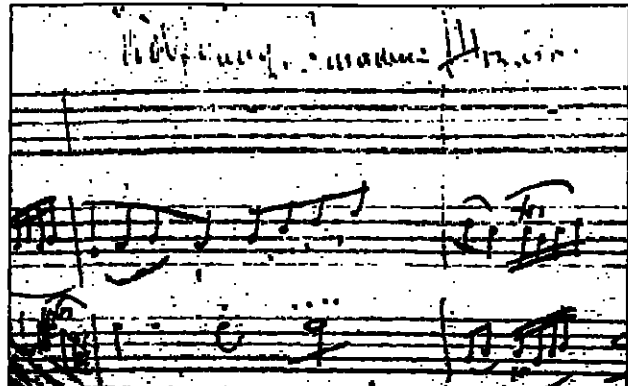
PART of a previously unknown soprano aria by Mozart has been discovered in an attic. The double-sided single leaf, bearing about a minute of music, had its first public performance in more than 200 years yesterday.

The manuscript was found at the home of an elderly couple in America after their death. Mozart's distinctive hand was identified by Jonathan Stone, musical manuscript specialist at the auctioneers Christie's, from a photocopy sent to him.

The excerpt is tantalisingly short: both the beginning and the ending are missing. The musical style and watermark date it to between 1773 and 1781, when Mozart would have been in his mid twenties.

It may have been intended for the opera *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, but is more likely to relate to his incidental music for the many plays performed in Vienna's princely homes. Its German text, about the pain of love, has yet to be identified.

Albi Rosenthal, the Mozart



The manuscript, written in Mozart's distinctive hand

scholar, said: "It's vintage Mozart. The 'genuineness' is beyond question. What it is, though, is still a matter of speculation. An unknown leaf is very rare for Mozart as he is generally catalogued carefully."

Mr Rosenthal, who organised the 1991 Mozart exhibition at the Bodleian Library in Oxford, said: "I have unmasked a number of forgeries, including a Mozart forgery. This is 100 per cent genuine from every point of view. Forgers are usually very clever. They get hold of plausible old paper. But usually there is something you see at first

glance if familiar with Mozart's handwriting." Mr Stone said that Mozart's writing was extremely distinctive, particularly the brackets at the beginning of each staff and the formation of notes.

He paid £15 for one of several Mozart forgeries made in the 1920s. "I treasure it as an example of a not very good forgery."

Mr Rosenthal noted that the new discovery was not a sketch, but a relatively complete extract. "He worked the music out in his head and wrote it down pretty much as complete. There are quite a lot

of scores which he must have written down without any sketches beforehand."

The manuscript is expected to fetch about £30,000 when it is sold next Wednesday. The vendor has not been named. Mr Stone said: "One of the great mysteries is how it got from Vienna in 1780 to an American attic in the 20th century. The couple in whose attic it was found were not musical, although the relative from whom they inherited it had musical interests."

"Having heard it, nobody could doubt it is Mozart. It is exasperating that we just have this single leaf. It would be wonderful to think that the rest might turn up somewhere, sometime."

The one-minute work was performed at the auctioneers in London yesterday with David Stone, father of the Christie's expert, on violin, Joanne Hewson also on violin, Michael Paget on viola, Tim Bourne on cello and the soprano Giselle Minns. David Stone said: "It was amazingly exciting. It is full of Mozart's confidence and optimism. There is not a note out of place."



Giselle Minns performing the aria yesterday for the first time since the 18th century

Death of Planet kills off Dan Dare

By ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN's newest national newspaper, *The Planet* on Sunday, closed down yesterday after one issue because its publisher felt it contained too much bad news.

The tabloid title, produced in Birmingham and promising news with an environmental focus, is one of the shortest-lived national papers. One casualty of the closure is Dan Dare, the comic strip hero of the 1950s and 60s, who had been revived by the paper.

Clifford Hards, the Midlands entrepreneur who funded the paper, said that although it sold more than 300,000 copies and was expected to reach breakeven point quickly, its content did not satisfy his vision of the world. It is understood that Mr Hards believed that it failed to convey a positive message.

The paper contained an article alleging that the Department of Health had failed to warn parents about the risks of mumps, measles and rubella vaccinations. Another was about river pollution and a third concerned aquariums which keep orcas (killer whales) in captivity.

Barristers agree to offer free services

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 300 barristers, including 60 Queen's Counsel, have signed up to offer free services to the public through a scheme launched by the Bar yesterday.

The scheme, to be called the Bar Pro Bono Unit, is aimed at helping people with "deserving" legal problems who cannot afford legal advice. A register has been set up of barristers willing to offer up to three free days on a case.

Peter Goldsmith, QC, a former Bar chairman and the driving force behind the scheme, said: "The reduction in eligibility for legal aid means that there are more and more people falling through the net." He predicted that more barristers would join, and that in two or three years "thousands of people will have benefited".

The scheme has been working unofficially in recent months. The case of the Zulu boy fostered in Britain and ordered to be returned home was presented free by Allan Levy, QC, and solicitors from Mishcon de Reya. Cases are expected to be referred chiefly by solicitors and Citizens Advice Bureaux, although people can approach direct.

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Prehistoric stone circle damaged by vandals

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

THE prehistoric stone circle at Avebury has been damaged by vandals who daubed New Age symbols on the stones.

Wardens for the 4,000-year-old site in the heart of Wiltshire discovered eight of the stones defaced with black and white paint early yesterday morning.

The attack, just before the summer solstice festival begins with tomorrow's sunrise, has alarmed the site's owners, the National Trust. Avebury, despite its cultural and mystical significance, still allows visitors to roam freely. Some of the stones are even in people's gardens.

Chris Gilling, the National Trust's property manager, gave warning that this liberal policy may have to change. "The monuments are open to free access at all times and that sort of freedom is threatened by this mindless vandalism."

"There is not only the damage to the stones themselves, but also to the lichen which gives them their character, depth and weathering. They

are vulnerable both to the paint and the materials which will be used to remove it."

Avebury, unlike Stonehenge, is spread widely and would be difficult to police in the same way. Individual stones would be hard to fence off, and it is unlikely that the National Trust would want to segregate the entire village and monument from the rest of the countryside, effectively turning Avebury into an historical theme park. The likeliest options are that security would have to be stepped up, or they could opt for a combination of all three.

Avebury stone circle holds vital clues to the way people lived in the late Neolithic period. It is one of the largest prehistoric henges in Britain and, like Stonehenge, it has been designated as a World Heritage Site.

The site, built up over a thousand years, is seen by the New Age travellers, Druids and other fringe religious groups as a site of great mystical symbolism.

The Avebury circle (circa



Some of the Avebury stones daubed with mysterious symbols. They will not only be damaged by paint but also by materials used to remove it

2600-2100 BC) is set within a massive bank and ditch 14 times the size of Stonehenge and 500 years older. There are also impressive avenues of stones, burial sites and a mysterious mound, Silbury Hill (2700 BC), which is one of the largest in Europe.

The vandals targeted the stones furthest from Avebury village. They are thought to be on an ancient fertility ground

with barrow and broad stones, about 8ft high, symbolising both male and female characteristics.

New Age worshippers have identified the black symbols daubed on the "male" stones as runic notes, ancient Norse symbols that summon evil forces. Kevin Carlyon, a "white witch" who runs the Hastings-based Covenant of Earth Magic, is to perform a

"cleansing" exorcism over the stones this morning.

However, experts at the British Museum dismissed the markings as nonsense. Dr Stephen Quirk, a curator in the department of Egyptian antiquities, said they are not any ancient language but are typical of 19th and 20th century attempts to imitate hieroglyphs.

□ A Bronze Age memorial

ended a brief skirmish with the 20th century yesterday when it vanished under a polyester model. Archaeologists decided it had suffered enough since it was discovered 30 years ago.

Acid rain has eroded the cup and ring designs carved about 4,000 years ago. It had also suffered when bleach was poured on it — possibly in a misguided effort to clean the

millstone grit boulder. Experts feared the stone would crumble away within 20 years and agreed to bury it and cover it with a replica. The boulder, 5ft by 10ft, stands on moors at Gardsom's Edge near Baslow in the Derbyshire Peak District. It may have been a waymarker for nomadic tribes.

Books, page 37

Einstein proved right as time flies

BY ANJANA AHUJA

A BOEING 747 was transformed into a time machine in a rerun of a famous experiment conducted 25 years ago.

One of the most accurate clocks in the world was flown across the Atlantic and back. When it was compared with an identical clock in London on its return, the travelling clock had gained 40 nanoseconds (one nanosecond is a billionth of a second).

The result demonstrates Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity, which says that time can be gained or lost according to how fast a clock is moving, and whether it is moving in the same or opposite direction to the Earth's rotation. Gravity changes also affect timekeeping.

Scientists at the National Physical Laboratory, who lent the caesium atomic clock in the experiment, predicted that because of the Earth's spin it would gain 40.4 nanoseconds on the outward leg and lose 0.6 nanoseconds on the return.

The experiment at the weekend, organised and filmed by the makers of the BBC2 science programme *Horizon*, makes it clear that aircraft become time machines. But staying young does not come easy. If you flew eastwards around the world in a 747 continuously for 70 years, you would knock one thousandth of a second off your life.

Vast lake discovered beneath the ice of Antarctica

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A VAST freshwater lake, deep under the ice of Antarctica, has been charted by scientists, in a discovery recalling Jules Verne's *Journey to the Centre of the Earth*.

The lake, whose deepest waters are estimated to be a million years old, has a surface area of 14,000 square kilometres — about the same size as Northern Ireland. Lake Vostok, above which is a Russian base, might be up to 500 metres deep in parts.

Scientists believe the lake, which is four kilometres under the ice, is kept from being frozen by heat radiating from the Earth's core and insulation by the ice.

The ice above the lake's surface

is also sliding across that part of Antarctica at about three metres a year. The friction from this helps to keep the lake from freezing.

The existence of the lake emerged first in the mid-1970s during research to calculate the thickness of the ice in central-east Antarctica, using aircraft and radio-echo sounding equipment. But it has taken developments in technology and satellites to disclose Lake Vostok's true scale.

In 1991, the European Space Agency launched its ERS-1 remote sensing satellite, the first capable of large-scale surveys of the polar ice caps. The scientists have, since 1993, combined data from the satellite with new radio-echo and seismic surveys. The research, published in *Nature*, was carried

out by scientists from the Scott Polar Institute, the Mullard Space Science Laboratory, the University of Wales and the Russian Academy of Sciences.

The discovery echoes the Verne novel, in which the travellers come across a vast underground lake where they have to fight sea monsters. Lake Vostok, under ice rather than underground, is like a vast flooded valley with steep sides that ensure little of the water seeps away.

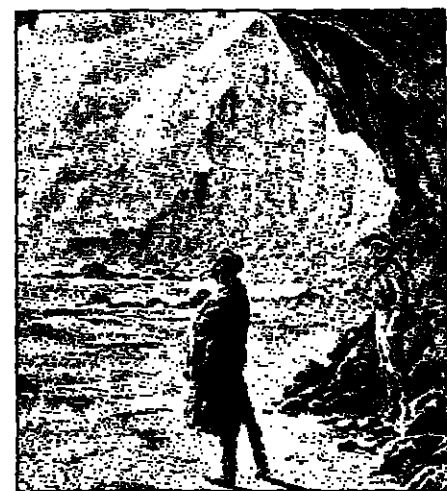
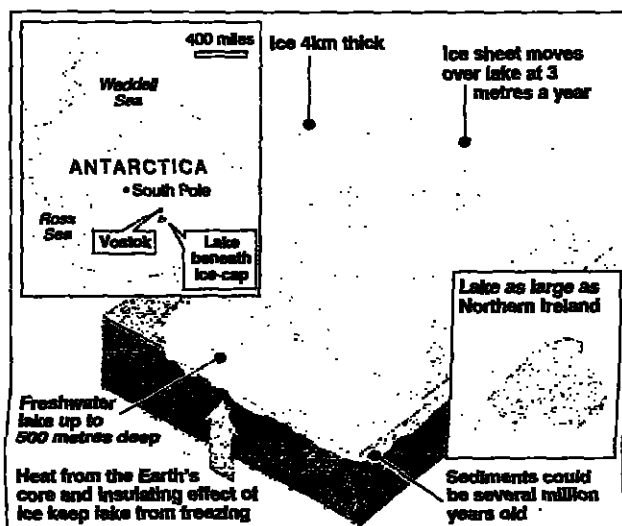
Dr David Wynn-Williams and Dr Cynan Ellis-Evans of the British Antarctic Survey said yesterday that Lake Vostok might be a habitat for ancient bacterial life, with the muds containing microbes found nowhere else on Earth. These might be used to

make novel compounds and proteins for use in medicine and industry, the researchers believe.

"The prime biological value of Lake Vostok lies in its microbes' gene pool," say the scientists.

□ An ancestor of *Tyrannosaurus rex*, the dinosaur of the Jurassic period, has been unearthed by scientists in northeast Thailand. The find, published in *Nature*, shows that tyrannosaurs existed 20 million years earlier than had been supposed, Dr Angela Milner of the Natural History Museum in London said.

Scientists at the University of Paris and the Thai Geological Survey unearthed the dinosaur's pelvis, hip girdle and about 15 tail bones. It has been named *Siamotyrannus isanensis*.



An illustration from Verne's novel

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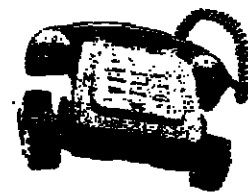


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Employers may be given access to criminal records

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

EMPLOYERS are to have greater access to job applicants' criminal records under proposals which are intended to provide more protection to the public.

All employers will be entitled to ask a prospective employee to present a document disclosing any unspent convictions. An offence for which a prison sentence of 24 years or more is imposed is never removed from someone's record.

Under Michael Howard's plans, the extent of an applicant's previous criminal history and associations made available will be linked to the sensitivity of the job. The Home Secretary said: "We need a more accessible and open system to meet the needs of employers who place people in positions of trust."

He said the plans, unveiled in a White Paper yesterday, would benefit employers and people wishing to live and work abroad who needed to produce evidence that they had no criminal record. The proposals were criticised by penal reform groups and probation staff associations who warned that it would make it much more difficult for ex-offenders to find employment.

The White Paper, *On the Record*, proposes setting up a Criminal Records Agency to manage access to records. It is expected that the agency, which the Government hopes will be operating by mid-1998, will charge job applicants less than £20 for providing a Criminal Conviction Certificate.

An employer will be able to ask for the certificate, which would detail all significant convictions, but not spent convictions or police cautions. Employers will not be able to



Howard said employers need more open system

apply direct to the agency for certificates.

Penal reform groups warned that the move would make it more difficult for the estimated five million people with a criminal record to find work and predicted that most job applicants would get a certificate, whether the employer demanded it or not.

In sensitive areas such as working with the under-18s, the handicapped and the administration of the law, employers in the private and voluntary sector will have the access to details of spent and unspent convictions for all offences, plus details of police cautions. The power to obtain a "full criminal records check" will extend to dentists, dental hygienists, opticians, vets, chartered accountants, firefighters, barristers and solicitors.

Mr Howard is also proposing an even more rigorous check for people seeking work with children or in the gaming, betting and lottery business. In these areas employers will be able to check other information such as convictions and cautions for minor offences and information known to the police including decisions not to prosecute.



Terms of imprisonment: released offenders would have to show prospective employers a conviction certificate

acquittals and known associates.

In an effort to prevent the agency being overwhelmed with applications, employers who make less than 200 checks a year will be expected to use a trade or professional organisation rather than apply individually.

The proposals met with a barrage of criticism from penal reform groups. Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, warned that they would result in more re-offending by making it more difficult for ex-offenders to find work.

Mr Fletcher cited a recent report, commissioned by the Home Office with the support of the Department of Employment, which, he said, concluded that released offenders were more likely to be rehabilitated successfully if they were in work. The report, called the National Audit of Offender

Employment Policies and Practice, and commissioned by the Home Office from the Apex Trust, concluded that the Home Office, Prison Service, Department for Education and Employment, Employment Service and other Government agencies needed to "develop a more collaborative and strategic approach to the problems of offender unemployment". Paul Cavadin, chairman of the Penal Affairs Consortium, warned that em-

ployers would receive an enormous amount of information about past offences with no relevance to the job for which someone was applying. He added: "This will increase the risk that ex-offenders will be unfairly excluded from jobs because of old and irrelevant convictions."

"This is disturbing because unfair discrimination against ex-offenders in the job market amounts to double punishment."

Addicts' families living in 'no hope' nineties

By STEWART TENDLER AND ALICE THOMSON

DRUG abuse is bringing back Dickensian conditions of poverty, crime and degradation to inner cities, according to a senior police officer.

Keith Hellawell, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire and a national police spokesman on drug abuse, said yesterday that users were living in the "no-hope nineties". Many were taking heroin as their first drug and the number of addicts was increasing.

He told a police drugs conference at Hinkley, Leicestershire: "I think we are looking, in a way, back at Dickensian conditions for some of our children. They live in misery. They live, many of them, in filth. They live in a dream, in a world that is perhaps unacceptable to us and unimaginable to us, a world of petty crime, of prostitution, of violence, of fear, of threats, of no hope."

Mr Hellawell added: "As we approach the millennium we find ourselves facing the same problems that we associate with Victorian times."

The Liberal Democrats, meanwhile, urged the Government to try American-style "drug courts", which have been successful in breaking the cycle of addicts and small-time pushers continually re-offending.

Under the system, offenders who are believed to have committed crimes to sustain their habits can be referred to a drug court as an alternative to sentencing in the normal system. The 200 courts in America have the power to set out demanding treatment programmes. If offenders fail to follow them, they can be returned to the first court to be sentenced for the original offence.

The Liberal Democrats want a pilot scheme to be set up in Britain. Alex Carlile, home affairs spokesman, said that the Home Secretary should adopt the idea immediately because the scheme should reduce overall crime, as well as tackling prison overcrowding and reducing pressure on a clogged court system.

Serb in Tory funds inquiry is a recent party donor

By ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A SERBIAN-BORN businessman whose donation to the Tories in December 1994 is the subject of an internal inquiry gave money to the party only weeks before the investigation was launched by Brian Mawhinney.

The Tory Party chairman, battered by Labour criticism over allegations that the businessman, Zoran Tancic, was linked to Radovan Karadzic, set up the investigation to try to defuse the controversy.

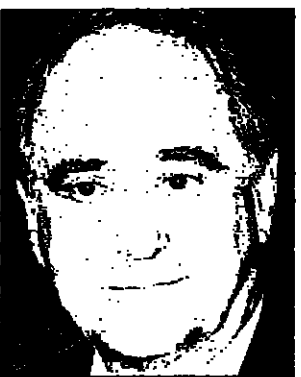
Inquiries by *The Times*

show that Mr Tancic, a millionaire businessman and long-time supporter of John Major's Government, made a donation in April of between £5,000 and £10,000. Mr Tancic is understood to have no links with Mr Karadzic and will be exonerated by the Central Office inquiry.

The controversy erupted after press reports that Jeremy Hanley, then the party chairman, had accepted money in December 1994 from unnamed businessmen who had alleged links with the Serb leader, who is wanted for international war crimes. Mr

Tancic was reported to have made a donation of up to £50,000 after meeting Mr Hanley for lunch, although the figure is now regarded as too high. Mr Hanley insisted last month that the lunch with Mr Tancic had been suggested and arranged by John Kennedy, a Tory candidate with close links to the Yugoslav royal family.

Dr Mawhinney, as part of a damage-limitation exercise, promised to speak personally to Mr Kennedy. No such conversation has yet taken place. Conservative Central Office last night said the delay



Mawhinney: acted to defuse controversy

had been caused because the party chairman had been busy.

The inquiry will clear the businessman of any impropriety and Mr Kennedy is also expected to be given a clean bill of health.

Former Liberal Democrat candidate jailed for fraud

By A STAFF REPORTER

A CONMAN who had managed to be selected as a Liberal Democrat council candidate was yesterday jailed for 18 months at Merthyr Tydfil Crown Court.

Ken Jones, 46, who had 61 previous convictions and had served jail terms in the United States, Canada and Britain, was arrested after using the names of Liberal Democrat officials in further frauds.

When Jones's criminal activities were exposed in April last year, just before he was to stand for Cardiff City Council,

he was dropped as a candidate.

Peter Jacobs, for the prosecution, said: "On one occasion he made a reservation at a hotel in East Sussex for two rooms. He went through a quite elaborate deception, faxing a letter to the manager claiming that he was a representative at the Liberal Democrat convention. He sent a further fax purporting to be from the party president, Robert MacLennan. The fax said Mr MacLennan should be invited for the rooms."

Jones also forged a fax from the MP Alex Carlile, leader of

the Welsh Liberal Democrats, the court was told. Mr Jacobs said Jones also used "bounced" cheques to pay the rent on his Cardiff home, buy a car and pay for hotel rooms.

John Charles Rees, QC, for the defence, said: "To some extent, he is a Walter Mitty character. Some of the offences are pointless, others were almost bound to be detected."

Jones admitted 15 charges of forgery and deception. Jailing him, Judge Roderick Evans said: "Your genius for dealing with people and organising events was used for evil purposes."



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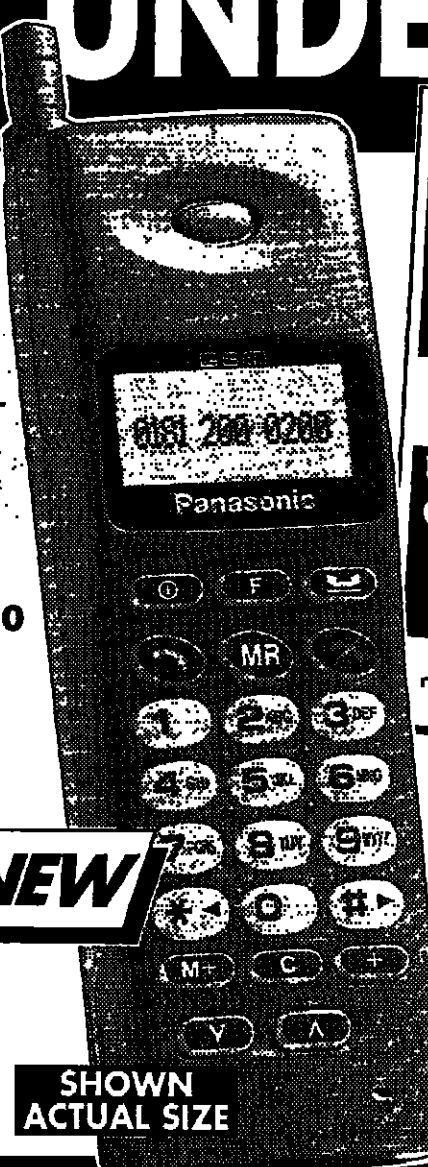
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Tate leaves women artists out of the picture

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Tate Gallery's annual Turner Prize is once again the subject of controversy. This year, though, it is not over the artists' works, such as Damien Hirst's dead animals in formaldehyde, or Yung Phang's room filled with rice. Nor is it over the artists shortlisted yesterday — Douglas Gordon, Craigie Horsfield, Gary Hume and Simon Patterson. Rather, it is over those left off the list.

One dealer expressed surprise that there were no women artists, others that a prize intended to recognise a significant contribution to British art could single out four artists whose names are barely known beyond art circles. It was also noted that the Tate had played safe in excluding a high shock factor.

Nicholas Serota, gallery director and chairman of the selecting jury, said that it had confined its final choice to artists who were strong and equal contenders for the final prize. "We didn't want to include someone just as a token made to some category, like under-25s or whatever."

The prize is awarded to a British artist under 50 for an outstanding exhibition in the last year. Winners include Gilbert and George, Rachel Whiteread and Hirst. Gordon, 29, a Glasgow-born painter and photographer who graduated from the Slade School of Art in 1990, produces work exploring memory and perception. One of the jurors, Mel Gooding,



Works by the four artists shortlisted include Craigie Horsfield's *Andrea Crik*, left; Douglas Gordon's *Fuzzy Logic*, above centre; Simon Patterson's *Sister Ships*, below centre; and Gary Hume's *Pauline*

don, 29, a Glasgow-born painter and photographer who graduated from the Slade School of Art in 1990, produces work exploring memory and perception. One of the jurors, Mel Gooding,

the writer and critic, likened him to Francis Bacon in being concerned "with the whole question of psychological stability".

Horsfield, 46, is a photographer who chooses his works

from hundreds of black and white negatives, including un- easy portraits of his wife Ava. Another juror, Edward Lee, a representative of the Tate's Patrons of New Art, described the work as highly charged,

exploring "urban life and decay, human fragility and isolation".

Hume, 34, came to notice with a series of 30 apparently abstract paintings based on hospital doors. He has since

branched out into more recognisable images. A third juror, James Lingwood, curator and co-director of the Artangel Trust, said that Hume was a lyrical painter.

Patterson, 29, takes familiar

systems such as the London Underground map and subverts them, for instance by replacing station names with those of philosophers or inventors. Mr Gooding called him a "passionate artist, con-

cerned about how we think about the world".

The Turner Prize exhibition will be staged from October 29 to January 12 and the winner of the £20,000 will be announced on November 26.

Hospitals warned over discharging elderly patients

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE NHS ombudsman today warns health authorities and NHS trusts of the dangers of discharging elderly hospital patients to long-term care.

In a report on selected investigations, Sir William Reid cites the case of a 95-year-old man who lost the will to live after being discharged from a hospital in Hampshire to a private nursing home against the advice of the consultant in charge.

The man, who suffered from dementia, had lived in the hospital for four years. He died two weeks after the move. In March 1994, his family asked for changes to spare others "the sadness and futility of a much-loved relative dying in such unnecessary circumstances".

Winchester Health Authority, which had decided to shut the long-stay ward at Park Prewett Hospital, obtained the consent of a second consultant to the move while the first was away and brought forward the closure by 21 months at an informal meeting which was closed to the public.

The ombudsman "found it totally undemocratic that a public body should have de-

cided a policy matter of such importance in that way". He criticised the discharge arrangements and the overruling of the first consultant's advice. It was "deplorable" that elderly patients were left without proper medical cover in the nursing home.

He added that the case "should serve as a grim warning to any health authority or trust planning the discharge of patients from hospital for long-term care or elsewhere".

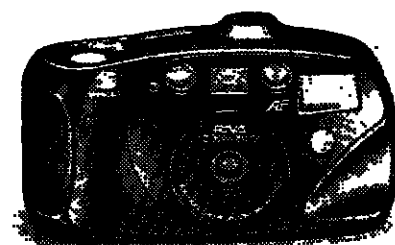
In a second case, an NHS trust is criticised for failing to protect a patient with dementia, who wandered from a ward in Orpington Hospital, Kent, and died in the grounds. Sir William says the 15-month delay by the hospital in replying to the complaint from the widow "reflected shameful incompetence and a total failure of management to manage".

Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust, which now manages the hospital, said it had improved security and the complaints procedure.

Report of the Health Service Commissioner — Selected Investigations Oct 1995 to Mar 1996 (HMSO, £15.15). Annual report 1995-96 (HMSO £16.30)

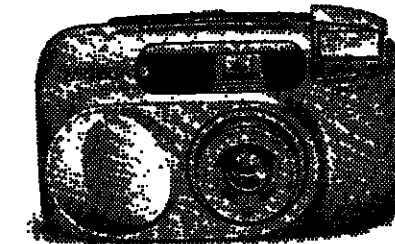


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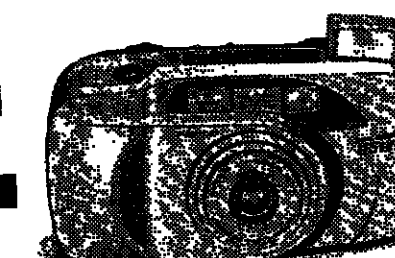
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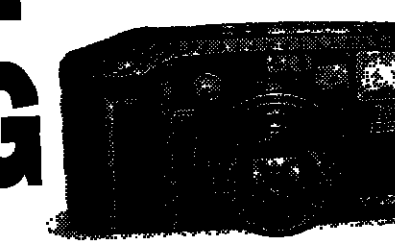
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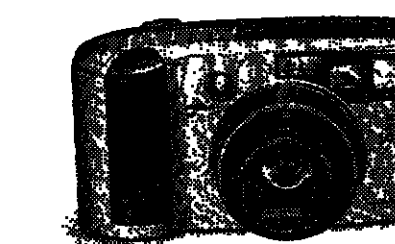
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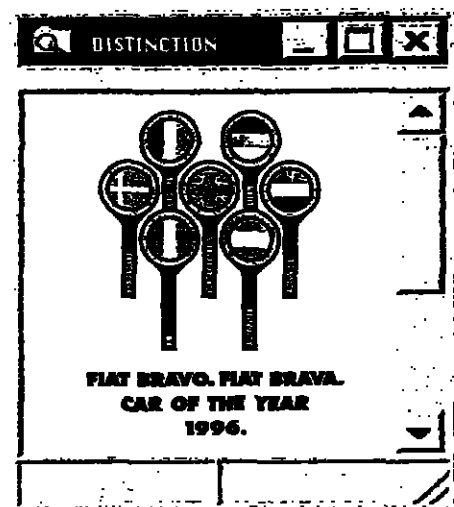
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Ill-judged beef policy leaves Major with damage to repair

John Major yesterday tried to repair some of the damage from the Government's blocking tactics in Brussels — and only exposed what an unnecessary and counter-productive policy it has been. He restated the Government's belief in a flexible Europe, at the sceptic end of the spectrum, but not a completely unrealistic position.

As significant as the content was the fact that the Prime Minister thought it necessary to deliver such a speech on Europe, organised at fairly short notice. It was aimed at both the domestic audience and, ahead of the Flor-

ence summit, at the rest of the EU: to demonstrate that, despite the beef dispute, the Government is not being pushed into an extreme position and has a positive agenda for the development of the EU. He only had to offer such reassurance because of the passions and arguments released by the beef confrontation and by the developing Tory debate over Britain's position in the EU.

Mr Major rejected the argument that Britain should consider leaving the EU — "cut and run" as he remarked. "So of course Britain will stay in Europe. Economic reality and self-interest demands

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

that we do." But clearing the air on this is only a starting point. How can this be reconciled with the pressures in the rest of the EU for closer integration and centralisation? As he first argued at Leiden two years ago, Mr Major believes that a Europe of possibly 20 or more countries will have to be allowed to develop flexibly. This idea of variable geometry has been taken up by France and Germany, but in a rather different way. They see

flexibility as a way of allowing an inner core to go ahead with closer integration without bothering with continual British reservations and veto threats. This has raised fears in London about the creation of a two-tier Europe from which some countries are excluded. Hence, Mr Major was careful to emphasise yesterday that "no member should be excluded from areas in which they want to, and are qualified to participate, and that all should consent to new arrangements for flexibility." This would mean that Britain, like all other EU members, would retain a say in how

the EU should develop, even if they decide not to participate themselves. This is turning into one of the central issues at the IGC, and one that a Labour government would have to address given its opposition to surrendering the national veto over defence, immigration and treaty amendments. Mr Major's other main theme was ensuring that Europe remains competitive. This offers intriguing comparisons with Tony Blair's speech in Bonn on Tuesday. Both embrace the language of free trade, flexible labour markets and limiting the impact

of regulations and non-wage costs. Yet there are ambiguities in Labour's position: over how far Mr Blair's view can be reconciled with Robin Cook's support for "social Europe" and the party's commitment to sign the social chapter. The extent of the shift in Labour's thinking will be revealed in its statement on trade union rights due to be published tomorrow. The Major approach would not involve repatriating powers from Brussels or renegotiating Britain's membership, as the sceptics want. To that extent it offers a plausible way forward, even if Britain

might, in practice, have to compromise over details of qualified majority voting. But it is not just about policies. Attitudes also matter. The rest of the EU may have exaggerated hopes of Mr Blair given his ambivalence over beef during the past month. But the approach of other European countries is heavily influenced by the divisions within the Tory party and by the blocking tactics of the past month. Most have already lost patience with the Government, however reasonable Mr Major now seeks to appear.

PETER RIDDELL

Labour will keep all of Thatcher's anti-strike laws

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR is planning to keep all the laws on industrial action and secondary picketing introduced by Margaret Thatcher.

A policy document to be published tomorrow, parts of which have been leaked to *The Times*, shows that Labour has no intention of repealing or altering them if it wins the general election. Trade unions were hoping that a Labour government would relax some of the rules on balloting, such as the requirement to provide employers with the names of staff taking part, which have made going on strike more difficult.

But the paper, which was due to be ratified by a meeting of Labour's joint policy committee last night, goes some way to meet union demands for recognition. It says that a trade union would be recognised for purposes of pay, hours, holidays and training "where the majority of the relevant workforce votes that they wish to have these".

Party sources said that this would mean that groups of workers would be balloted in a company rather than the entire workforce. On a newspaper, for example, journalists could be balloted separately from production workers. In some workplaces this could make it harder for unions to

obtain recognition. The document also confirms that Labour has dropped a commitment made by John Smith to give full employment rights to workers from their first day in a new job. It suggests that the present period of two years for rights against unfair dismissal is too long but does not specify whether it should be reduced further.

The unions had been pressing for this to be reduced at least to six months — the period specified before the Tories changed the law — if not further. But there are no signs that Mr Blair is prepared to bow to their demands.

The policy document, which covers trade union rights, recognition, and individual rights, makes little mention of the rights of part-time workers. Mr Blair has said in speeches that part-time workers should be given the same rights as full-time employees, pro rata, but the paper merely talks about helping part-timers.

Labour is, however, expected to adopt any measures in this area from the social chapter, which the party would sign once elected.

The paper devotes one section on the need to reform the laws that cover industrial tribunals. It suggests that

these should be made more efficient by encouraging more cases to go to arbitration rather than the courts. There are about 90,000 industrial tribunal cases, every year, mostly relating to unfair dismissal. Under the new policy individuals would be able to claim unfair dismissal if they had been sacked for taking part in industrial action.

Everyone would have the right to representation irrespective of whether they were trade union members. Individuals would be able to be represented in disciplinary and grievance cases by someone of their choice.

Other proposals in the document, *Building Prosperity — Flexibility, Efficiency and Fairness at Work*, include outlawing zero-hours contracts, where employees have no guaranteed working hours and can be sent home unexpectedly.

The paper, drafted by Stephen Byers, an education and employment spokesman, also proposes measures against bogus self-employment, where firms expect employees to act as if they were self-employed to avoid national insurance contributions. It also calls for legislation against age discrimination.

Leading article, page 21



Goldsmith opposes leaving EU

with the left-wing *Tribune*: "I think pulling out of the European Union would be a bad thing for Britain, because it is a soft option and because being an island off a German-enclosed continent has always been Britain's nightmare. So Britain has to insist on a

Europe of nations and go in there and fight for it. It has to either convert — or split Europe." This would be possible because Europe's heads of government, except for Chancellor Kohl, are "men of straw".

In a reference to John Major, he says: "If there was a real leader there, putting forward the arguments for a Europe of nations, co-operating where necessary, most of the countries in Europe could in due course be attracted to that."

Pro-Europeans strike back at Tory sceptics

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

PRO-EUROPEAN Tories will strike the first blows today in a fightback against their Euro-sceptic colleagues.

In a Commons debate on the European Union before this weekend's Florence summit, they will co-ordinate their speeches in an attempt to upstage the sceptics. More than 50 Tories have been briefed by the European Movement, the leading all-party pro-European pressure group, to argue in favour of Britain's EU membership.

The briefing paper, seen by *The Times*, condemns recent Euro-sceptic attacks on the European Court of Justice and gives warning against demands for withdrawal from the EU. "The Euro-sceptics are now attacking the whole basis of Britain's membership of the EU," it says. "[Their] demands would damage British interests."

A spokesman for the European Movement said: "This marks the beginning of the pro-European fightback. We are co-ordinating our activities in Parliament for the first time so that pro-European MPs can put their case."

The move is a considerable shift in policy by the party's pro-European wing, which has tended to remain silent to avoid exacerbating Tory divisions. Many pro-European Tories remain fiercely loyal to John Major and are keen not to be seen as rebels. However, they believe that the time has

come to confront the sceptics. As part of the new strategy, the European Movement will ensure that pro-European Tories are immediately available for on-the-record interviews on Europe to counter the growing media expertise and exposure of the sceptics.

An autumn campaign to promote the benefits of Britain's membership of the EU is also planned. Extra money is being raised from new corporate backers, including David Sainsbury, chairman of the supermarket chain, to fund a huge advertising drive.

Ray Whitney, Tory MP for Wycombe, said that pro-European MPs were sometimes inhibited by fear of harming party unity. "But that is clearly a lost cause, so it's time to put the realities of Europe on the table." In the Commons he will attack the Euro-sceptics for distorting the views of pro-Europeans. "They widely misrepresent what the other Europeans want," he said. "The idea that they want to subsume Britain's identity in some kind of German hegemony is just nonsense."

John Redwood, page 20

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: questions to agriculture ministers and the Prime Minister; debates on the European Union and on New Age travellers in North Tyneside. In the Lords: Offensive Weapons Bill, committee; Asylum and Immigration Bill, report; Railway Heritage Bill, second reading.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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Good neighbour in Bosnia 'became brutal executioner'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN THE HAGUE

IN SOME of the most chilling evidence of the Bosnia war crimes trial, a Muslim labourer said yesterday that his brother and son were chosen from a terrified crowd by Dusan Tadic, the former cafe owner, and then killed.

Salko Karabasic wept as he told the United Nations tribunal here how his 27-year-old son was pulled from a column of Muslim refugees, allegedly on the direct orders of Mr Tadic. "When I tried to pull him back, they said, 'Do you want to come too?'" Mr Karabasic recalled, adding: "I never saw my son again."

Seido Karabasic and his uncles Ekrem and Ismet were shot dead by Serb forces, according to the charges against Mr Tadic, 40. The first person to stand trial for war crimes since the aftermath of the Second World War, he is charged with crimes against humanity, torture, sexual assault and at least 13 murders during the Serb "ethnic cleansing" campaign of 1992.

Mr Karabasic, who still bears the scars of beatings, was the latest in a series of witnesses to describe how Mr Tadic, a Serb in the predominantly Muslim town of Kozarac, allegedly turned from a peaceful neighbour into a brutal torturer and executioner.

Most of the witnesses knew Mr Tadic and several consid-

ered themselves to be his friends before the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Mr Karabasic and his family even took shelter from the Serbs with Mr Tadic's father-in-law.

In earlier evidence Nihad Seferovic said he had played with Mr Tadic when they were children and recalled how Kozarac Muslims had helped to build his cafe.

In the dock, Mr Tadic

flinched perceptibly when Mr Seferovic said that he had watched from hiding while his former playmate slit the throats of two Muslim policemen as the occupying Serb forces fired their guns in celebration. "I didn't see the knife, just gushes of blood... then gunfire from the Serbs, as if they were applauding."

He was later captured and taken to the Omarska prison camp, where Mr Tadic, who held no official position in the

Serb hierarchy, was allegedly allowed to come and go, torturing and killing at will.

Defence claims that Mr Tadic is the victim of mistaken identity as sharply contradicted by his alleged victims, who still refer to him by his diminutive nicknames, "Dule" or "Dushko".

Nasiba Klipic, a cousin of Fikrit Alic, the man whose skeletal frame, filmed behind the wire of Omarska camp, so shocked the world, also said she knew Mr Tadic well and described seeing him plucking people from the refugee column after Kozarac was overrun by Serb forces in May 1992. Mrs Klipic's husband, a policeman, and her brothers were among those taken to the prison camps who have never again been seen.

When asked to identify the accused, she pointed at Mr Tadic and shouted: "Shame on you. You were never as well dressed as that before." Mr Tadic, wearing a blue suit, fingered his floral tie and resolutely looked away.

Some of the simplest but most powerful evidence was provided by Ferid Mujic, a local farmer and also an acquaintance of the accused. He said he was repeatedly beaten at the Omarska camp, and identified Mr Tadic as one of those who came to take prisoners away. One night he recalled a "terrible" silence,



Dusan Tadic in the dock at the war crimes tribunal. He is alleged to have killed even his closest friend

followed by screams of pain and foul language from the Serb guards. "Even now I can hear those words resounding in my ears," he said.

By the time he was released and taken to Britain for medical treatment, after Omarska was closed down in August 1992, Mr Mujic said he weighed just more than five stone, less than half his usual weight. "I was totally beaten up, broken, sick, on the edge of

death," he said. Pressed by Steven Kay, the English barrister on the defence team, Mr Mujic said: "I did see him [Tadic]. I guarantee that with my life. You cannot say I did not."

Mr Mujic said he knew the precise date of the incident because, two days earlier, Jasmin Hrnica, whom Mr Tadic is also accused of murdering, had shared some biscuits with his fellow prisoners

to mark his son's birthday. "I had never tasted anything so delicious," Mr Mujic told the court, "even though it was only a tiny piece."

At least 40 more witnesses will be called as the prosecution, led by Grant Niemann, a former public prosecutor in South Australia, tries to fit Mr Tadic's alleged role into the broad picture of genocide in Bosnia.

Another Muslim, Emir

Karabasic, not related to Salko, has repeatedly been cited as one of Mr Tadic's closest friends in the community. Despite their ethnic differences, the two men shared many interests and were often together in the streets and bars of Kozarac. But he will not give evidence at The Hague because, according to the charge sheet, he was beaten to death by Mr Tadic in July 1992.

Baghdad calls UN inspector a liar

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

IRAQ yesterday branded Rolf Ekeus, the United Nations weapons inspector, a liar intent on prolonging sanctions, as he arrived in Baghdad on a last-ditch attempt to force Iraqi compliance with UN weapons limitations.

Baghdad's uncompromising language, after its refusal to open up defence installations to inspection, has infuriated the West. President Saddam Hussein's defiance could lead to renewed military action against Iraq.

The Iraqi state-controlled press accused Mr Ekeus and the United Nations of being a tool of the United States. "Mr Ekeus, we know you are a liar," the government newspaper *al-Jumhuriya* said in a front-page editorial. It said that when the UN official insisted on access to any sites in Iraq he was deliberately trying to insult the Iraqi people and was acting like an insolent "killer cowboy".

Western diplomats said such remarks suggested further confrontation rather than a resolution of the stand-off. Last week UN inspectors were turned away from Republican Guard installations in and around Baghdad, and left the country saying that their work was being made impossible.

UN resolutions do not mandate an automatic military response if they are not met. Western governments are looking at contingency plans, however. America last attacked Iraqi installations in 1993, after the discovery of an Iraqi-backed plot to assassinate former President Bush during a visit to Kuwait.

Diplomats said that there was no discussion yet in New York on how the UN might respond to Saddam's defiance. "There are a range of measures that could be invoked," one said.

These could include new conditions for the easing of sanctions, fresh attempts to isolate Iraq diplomatically and economically, and more active support for Iraqi opposition groups.

The UN is unlikely to go back on its recent agreement to allow Iraqi oil to be sold for food and medicine, enabling the hardships suffered by ordinary Iraqis to be ameliorated. That provision has always been available, although until recently Saddam refused to take it up in order to accuse the West of deliberately causing famine and hardship.

Observers cry foul as Kremlin claims Chechen landslide

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

THE provisional results of the elections in Chechnia, released by the local electoral commission, show a picture that would be surreal if it were true.

The local electoral commission for Chechnia reported yesterday that there had been a turnout of 73.7 per cent by 374,016 voters in the republic. President Yeltsin, who started the war in Chechnia in December 1994, supposedly won 64.1 per cent of the vote, his highest score — higher even than the vote he won in either Moscow or his home region of Yekaterinburg.

These questionable figures were produced by the pro-Moscow Government in Chechnia, which is worried about surviving in office and persisted in going ahead with local elections to a national assembly in the republic in contradiction of the agreement signed on June 10 by Moscow and the rebel leadership. Both sides agreed then to postpone the elections until Russian troops had been withdrawn.

Benedict von Tscharnier, chairman of the permanent council of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, released a statement saying that the local polls in Chechnia "did not comply with the OSCE principles for

free and fair elections". The organisation refused to monitor the vote and the Council of Europe, which offered to do so, did not because it said its monitors were not given adequate security guarantees.

Journalists reported wide infringements. The *Moscow Times* said there were empty streets on polling day in Grozny, the capital, and that only 50 voters had turned up on Sunday at a single heavily-guarded polling station in Argun, a town which once had a population of 30,000. In the December parliamentary elections, several reporters said that they had been offered ballot papers by over-zealous officials.

Movladi Udugov, the rebels' spokesman, said that turnout had been 1 per cent. Republics neighbouring Chechnia did vote but mostly against the current President. In Dagestan, the Communist candidate won his highest level of support, 66 per cent of the vote.

Aslan Maskhadov, the top Chechen commander, said recently he would not disrupt the elections. "After what has happened here in Chechnia, if a Chechen is found who will vote or take part in these Russian elections, he is not a Chechen."

Yeltsin 'made secret election pact with Lebed'

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

THE overnight rise of Aleksandr Lebed in Russia may have had more to do with a secret pre-election pact with the Kremlin than his charisma or campaigning skills.

According to political, financial and media sources in Moscow, the former general's unexpectedly strong showing in Sunday's presidential election was in part due to generous assistance from pro-Yeltsin figures who funded his campaign. They were responsible for General Lebed's media blitz in the closing days of the race, when slick advertisements and regular appearances on current affairs shows helped him to finish third with 15 per cent of the vote.

The agreement between Lebed and the presidential team was made before the first

round of elections," said Konstantin Borovoi, a businessman and independent member of parliament. "A lot of money was invested in Lebed, which explains why he had the second-largest advertising campaign after Yeltsin."

Observers of Russia's murky political world trace the beginnings of a Yeltsin-Lebed alliance to their first official meeting in April, when the Russian leader was scouting among the non-Communist presidential candidates for a possible ally. Although few details emerged at the time, the two men apparently embarked on detailed negotiations with the encouragement of General Aleksandr Korzhakov, the presidential security chief.

The former paratroop of-

ficer was particularly attractive to the Kremlin, because he appealed to voters who might otherwise have backed Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist candidate, or Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the ultra-nationalist leader.

"It was evident that Lebed and Yeltsin had something going on," said one banking source. "Quite aside from the money Lebed was receiving and the airtime he was allowed, he was the only

presidential candidate who did not attack Yeltsin."

Further confirmation of a secret deal came when President Yeltsin let slip in the closing days that he planned another meeting with General Lebed. Then, on the eve of voting, he hinted broadly that the former Afghan war hero could one day succeed him.

By that time, experts believe, the two men had not only established a strong personal bond, but had also

finalised the details of their agreement. In exchange for backing President Yeltsin in the second round run-off vote, General Lebed would be made the country's security chief and leader-in-waiting.

Michael McFaul, an analyst at the Carnegie Endowment in Moscow, said that the clearest evidence of a secret pact was the speed with which President Yeltsin announced his alliance with General Lebed, even before the final votes had been counted.

"It is inconceivable that Yeltsin would have fired Pavel Grachev [as Defence Minister], appointed Lebed to his new post and undertaken such a fundamental change unless the details had already been finalised," he said. "They had this sewn up long ago."

President to miss G7 summit

Moscow: President Yeltsin announced yesterday that he was withdrawing from next week's Group of Seven leading nations' summit in France to campaign for re-

election. He wants his run-off round against Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist leader, to be held on July 3, a few days after the June 27-29 summit in Lyons. (Reuters)

Forgiveness for Luther off Pope's German agenda

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

Luther: architect of the German Reformation

NEARLY 500 years after he was excommunicated for nailing up his heretical theses on the church door in Wittenberg and denying the primacy of the Pope, Martin Luther may be in sight of forgiveness by Rome.

However, on Sunday the Vatican denied that the Pope would welcome Luther back into the fold during his trip to Germany this week, saying only that the Pope was working for the reconciliation of the Roman

Catholic and Protestant traditions in a spirit of ecumenism in the run-up to the millennium, which the Pope has declared a Holy Year.

The Pope's visit to Germany, his third since his election, coincides with the 450th anniversary of Luther's death. It is already controversial because of Helmut Kohl's recent rebuff to the Vatican over birth control. The German Chancellor said this month that birth control should be a matter of individual conscience rather than doctrine.

To add to the Pope's problems,

senior German Evangelical church leaders have appealed to him to make "a gesture of ecumenical goodwill" by visiting, however briefly, a town of significance to German Protestantism. But instead his programme is being limited to Berlin, where he will visit the Brandenburg Gate and celebrate Mass at the Olympic stadium, and Paderborn, where he will beatify two German Catholic priests who opposed Nazism.

German Protestants had hoped the Pope would make a symbolic visit to the Wartburg, the castle in Thuringia

where Luther took refuge after being hounded for his refusal to recant at the Diet of Worms in 1521. The German weekly magazine *Focus* suggested last week that the Pope would go so far as to revoke Luther's excommunication.

Although the Pope has sought to build bridges to the Protestant world — he tends to refer to Luther as "Doctor Luther", a mark of his respect for Luther as a scholar — the Vatican press office denied that he would go so far as to revoke Luther's excommunication.

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Sharon demands enlarged role in Netanyahu team

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ARIEL SHARON was back in the limelight of Israeli political life yesterday, having triggered the first crisis of Benjamin Netanyahu's day-old Government.

Mr Sharon, 68, bane of the Arabs and of many past Israeli leaders, was officially said to be considering an offer of the hastily constructed Ministry of National Infrastructure at his sheep farm in the Negev Desert. Unofficially, Israeli commentators said that he was sulking over what was seen to have been a poor reward for his tireless campaigning on Mr Netanyahu's behalf.

The former general, whose size and style have earned him the nickname of "The Bulldozer", was reported to be demanding that the responsibilities of some other ministries be added to the new portfolio, and to be meeting strong resistance from colleagues anxious to avoid their own power bases being whittled away.

Rafael Eitan, another former general, complicated the confrontation last night by threatening to resign as Agriculture Minister if control of water resources were handed to Mr Sharon.

External tensions were also mounting yesterday as Mr Netanyahu chaired the first meeting of his Cabinet amid

growing Arab rhetoric and the first sign that Palestinians might renew the intifada, which ended in 1993.

David Levy, the new Foreign Minister, accused Arab states of inflaming the tension by calling next weekend's emergency summit in Cairo. The minister, a relative moderate in a hawkish Cabinet, added: "The tension which they are trying to produce is completely unnecessary."

Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank reported earlier that Palestinians were puncturing the tyres of speeding Jewish-owned cars with boards pierced with nails — a tactic not used since the intifada. The Tel Aviv Yediot

Ahronot quoted a leading member of the Palestinian Authority as giving a warning that the danger of another uprising had been increased by disappointment and fear. The new Government's guidelines and Tuesday's inaugural address to the Knesset by Mr Netanyahu have been condemned by most of the Arab world.

"It was a speech of slogans," the Palestinian official said. "The Government's fundamental principles are extreme, and will only bring about a renewed intifada."

Another Palestinian source told the paper that recent terrorist attacks, in which three Jews have been killed in ambushes in eight days, were a sign of what lies ahead.

In Egypt, Amr Moussa, the Foreign Minister, was uncharacteristically vitriolic in his reaction to Mr Netanyahu's remarks. All that had been clarified was the hardening of the Israeli position, he said.

The Syria Times, a mouthpiece of President Assad's administration, said that Mr Netanyahu's guidelines — which called for expanded settlement in the occupied territories and ruled out a Palestinian state — could be described as "sabotaging the peace process".

With Mr Sharon still considering his position, one col-



Yaakov Neeman, left, and David Levy with Benjamin Netanyahu at yesterday's first meeting of the new Cabinet

umnist likened Mr Netanyahu's embarrassment after his turbulent ally demanded a top post, when all the senior Cabinet jobs had been filled, to that of an army quartermaster. "This was the moment every quartermaster dreads: across the counter stands Ariel Sharon. Only one pair of 'extra small' trousers remains on the shelf. The only trousers that will fit Sharon are 'extra large'."

Among the responsibilities that are to come under the new portfolio are the Lands Authority, the Trains and Port Authority, electricity systems, development of the huge com-

plex of bypass roads for Jewish settlers in the occupied territories, and military industries. Political sources said that Mr Sharon was also demanding a place in Mr Netanyahu's security Cabinet as part of his reward.

Few doubt that if — as expected — Mr Sharon accepts the infrastructure post, he will try again to extend the Jewish presence in the three territories seized in 1967 — the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights. Within the 18-member Cabinet, he will lobby for contacts with Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, to be kept to the barest

minimum. He once ordered the Israeli security forces to kill the man he still refers to with undisguised hatred as a terrorist and war criminal.

Mr Sharon's return to power will be seen in the Arab world as a symbol of an imminent collapse of the peace process and will be regarded with trepidation in Washington. In his recent memoirs, James Baker, the former American Secretary of State, claimed that Mr Sharon's "inflammatory rhetoric and expansionist zeal" had undermined the best efforts by Washington to end the Arab-Israeli conflict.

□ Peking: Mr Arafat reacted to Mr Netanyahu's inaugural speech to the Knesset by saying that it was for the international community to respond, because the Palestinians were "not alone now" (James Pringle writes).

The Palestinian leader, on a two-day visit to China, said: "We are completely committed to the peace process." When asked where the peace process would go now after Mr Netanyahu had outlined his programme, including his pledge to pursue peace while retaining captured land, he said: "Now it is the turn of the international community."

WORLD SUMMARY

Christian Right cash for blacks

Washington: America's ultra-conservative Christian Coalition has pledged to atone for its past bigotry by raising at least \$1 million (£650,000) to rebuild burnt-out black churches in the Southern states (Martin Fletcher writes).

America's political leaders also intensified their efforts to halt a spate of arson that has destroyed 38 black churches in 18 months and appears to be gathering pace. President Clinton last night chaired a meeting of Southern governors to develop a co-ordinated strategy and asked Congress to allocate an extra \$12 million for what has become a huge federal hunt for those responsible.

Paris magistrate taken off case

Paris: Eric Halphen, the magistrate who recommended this week that Jean Tiberi, Mayor of Paris, and his son should be prosecuted on corruption charges, is to be removed from the case, judicial sources said (Susan Bell writes). M Halphen is well known for his investigations into cases of illegal funding of the ruling Gaullist RPR party and has seen several earlier inquiries quashed after he was taken off the cases.

Eta bomb maims boss's employee

Madrid: A Spanish worker at a Basque employers' organisation lost both legs when a car bomb meant for his boss went off in the northern city of San Sebastian. He was moving the car of the organisation's secretary-general, who was abroad, when the device went off inside a garage. The attack bore the hallmark of separatist Eta guerrillas, officials reported. (Reuters)

19 die in Natal ahead of poll

Durban: At least 19 people were killed in KwaZulu/Natal province during the 24 hours to Wednesday morning. The latest deaths included two people killed in their beds by unidentified attackers, near Donnybrook, police said, but they gave no motives for the killings, a week before the municipal elections. (AFP)

Mother accused

Dallas: A Texas woman, Darlie Routier, 26, who had appealed for help in finding the "animal" who stabbed her two young sons to death, has been arrested and charged with the murders. (Reuters)

Australians flock to backpacker trial

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

IT IS regarded as the best free show in town. As the hitchhiker murder trial enters its fourth month, the queue for the public gallery of the New South Wales Supreme Court in Sydney stretches 30 yards down the street.

The resurgence in interest has been sparked by the unexpected appearance in the witness box of Ivan Milat, alleged to be Australia's worst serial killer. He said yesterday that evidence linking him with the murder of two young British women had nothing to do with him.

Facing his second day of cross-examination, the 51-year-old roadworker was shown rags, a camera, photographs and a sash cord found in his home at the time of his arrest. A rag similar to material in his possession had been used to gag Joanne Walters, 22, from Mid Glamorgan. A camera identical to one belonging to Caroline Clarke

from Northumbria, was found in his bungalow. A photograph in a family album showed his girlfriend, Chantelle Hughes, wearing a Benetton top identical to one owned by Clarke, also 22. In addition, a bloodstained sash cord, which DNA tests earlier linked with Clarke, was found in his garage. The police also found in the garage plastic cable ties identical to ones that had been used as a restraining device on a German couple, who were among the seven victims.

Shown the evidence, Mr Milat continued to deny the allegations. "I suggest you were involved in the death of Caroline Clarke," Mark Tedeschi, for the prosecution, said. "I was not," the defendant replied.

"Can you explain those coincidences?" the lawyer asked. "I have no explanation at all," he replied. The trial continues.

Junta in call for Suu Kyi dialogue

THE Junta in Myanmar has called for a dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of the opposition National League for Democracy. The Junta said it was willing to negotiate with Suu Kyi on a number of issues, including the release of political prisoners and the holding of general elections. (Reuters)



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WE

ABOUT

Sleaze emerges as the trickiest hurdle for President in re-election race

BY TIM HAMES

EVEN before the damning report of the Senate Whitewater committee or the scathing words of the FBI director over the files on leading Republicans demanded by the White House, President Clinton's lead in the polls had slumped from 22 percentage points to six, largely because of political scandal.

Every other recent analysis has shown a similar trend. The assorted sleaze effect offers the biggest threat to what has been a smooth-running Clinton re-election machine. All surveys at this stage of the

campaign have to be issued with an exceptionally large health warning. Voters rarely think in concrete terms about their choice until after the two national party conventions. Nonetheless, they are a good indicator about the standing of an incumbent President, although impressions of the challenging candidate, even one as experienced as Bob Dole, remain hazy.

For a long time, professional pundits have said that scandal would have no real impact on the Clinton candidature. He was known to be an imperfect proposition in 1992 and still was elected.

Furthermore, while the residents of Washington might be fascinated by these matters, there was no evidence that Americans outside the capital had a similar interest. Until recently, there was little to refute that argument. Now the tide may have turned.

If so, it has happened for two reasons. First, there is the sheer collective weight of the charges levelled at the Clintons. Besides Whitewater, which contains half a dozen plots of its own, there is "Travelgate", centred on the use of political cronies at the behest of Hillary Clinton, and now the

improper acquisition of FBI material on political opponents. There is also the continuing sexual harassment case brought against the President. The average citizen can hardly avoid encountering at least one of these items.

Second, it is becoming harder to dismiss all this as a Republican plot. Senators may be easy to label as partisan and, at a long stretch, even a special prosecutor could be accused of bias. The FBI director, Secret Service agents' reports on the events surrounding Vincent Foster's office on the night of his death, and an Arkansas jury are

impossible to portray as Dole political stooges. The more that ordinary people are seen giving evidence, the worse for the White House. The American media have followed that logic. This week David Broder, a political journalist on the Democrat-leaning *The Washington Post*, directly questioned if Mr Clinton was fit for a second term. To compound his potential problems, with his opponents controlling Congress, he has no real domestic agenda.

His hopes of making a showcase of his foreign policy success with triumphs in Bosnia, the Middle

East and Northern Ireland have collapsed through the combination of Radovan Karadzic, Binyamin Netanyahu and Gerry Adams. Further, Mr Dole has received favourable coverage after his extremely dignified exit from the Senate and his efforts to soften his party's position on abortion.

Given that the election is nearly five months off, opinion polls are bound to be volatile. However, it is hard to believe that another battering on Whitewater and the FBI files will not have a further impact. The critical numbers to watch are those of Mr Clinton rather than those of

his adversary. In a two-man race, a sitting President whose approval ratings fall much below 50 per cent is unlikely to be re-elected against a challenger of any basic plausibility. Mr Dole clearly is sufficiently credible, especially when measured by the yardstick of Governor Clinton four years ago.

For all its confident swagger until now, the White House may find itself hoping for salvation in the shape of Ross Perot again splitting the anti-Clinton vote.

Dr Tim Hames is Lecturer in Politics at Christ Church, Oxford.

Clinton aide faces plot charge in Whitewater affair

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER AND TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE Whitewater scandal moved still closer to the Oval Office last night with an announcement that one of President Clinton's closest advisers is to be named as a participant in a criminal conspiracy.

Lawyers for two Arkansas bankers accused of illegally funneling bank funds into Mr Clinton's 1990 gubernatorial campaign revealed that Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater special prosecutor, is about to name Bruce Lindsey, the campaign treasurer, as an unindicted co-conspirator. Jury selection for the trial began on Monday.

Mr Lindsey, now a member of Mr Clinton's inner circle and one of the last surviving Arkansas in the Clinton White House, insisted that he did nothing wrong.

The President expressed confidence in him and the White House said that he would remain in his job, but the news was yet another blow to the image of an Administration reeling from a string of adverse developments.

In recent days, an Arkansas jury has convicted Mr Clinton's former business partners and his successor as Arkansas Governor, the White House has been caught with 400 FBI files on Republican officials, and the Republican-controlled Senate Whitewater Committee has published a damning report on Hillary Clinton's alleged wrongdoings.

Prosecutors generally name someone as an unindicted co-

conspirator if they have strong but not conclusive evidence of that person's guilt.

Mr Lindsey twice accepted substantial contributions from the two bankers in 1990 and also took out a \$30,000 (£19,000) loan from their bank that it concealed from regulators. After the election, Mr Clinton appointed Herby Branscum to an important state job and reappointed Robert Hill to another.

The scandal over misappropriated FBI files also deepened

Even if it was an innocent mistake, the files may have brought this to a critical mass

for President Clinton yesterday as some Republicans threatened to sue the White House for invasion of privacy and others questioned the impartiality of an internal investigation into the affair.

Former White House counsels and directors of personnel security for Presidents Bush, Reagan, Carter and Ford, were summoned to testify on Capitol Hill as hearings opened into how the White House in 1993 and 1994 had improperly obtained FBI documents on more than 400

employees of past Republican Administrations.

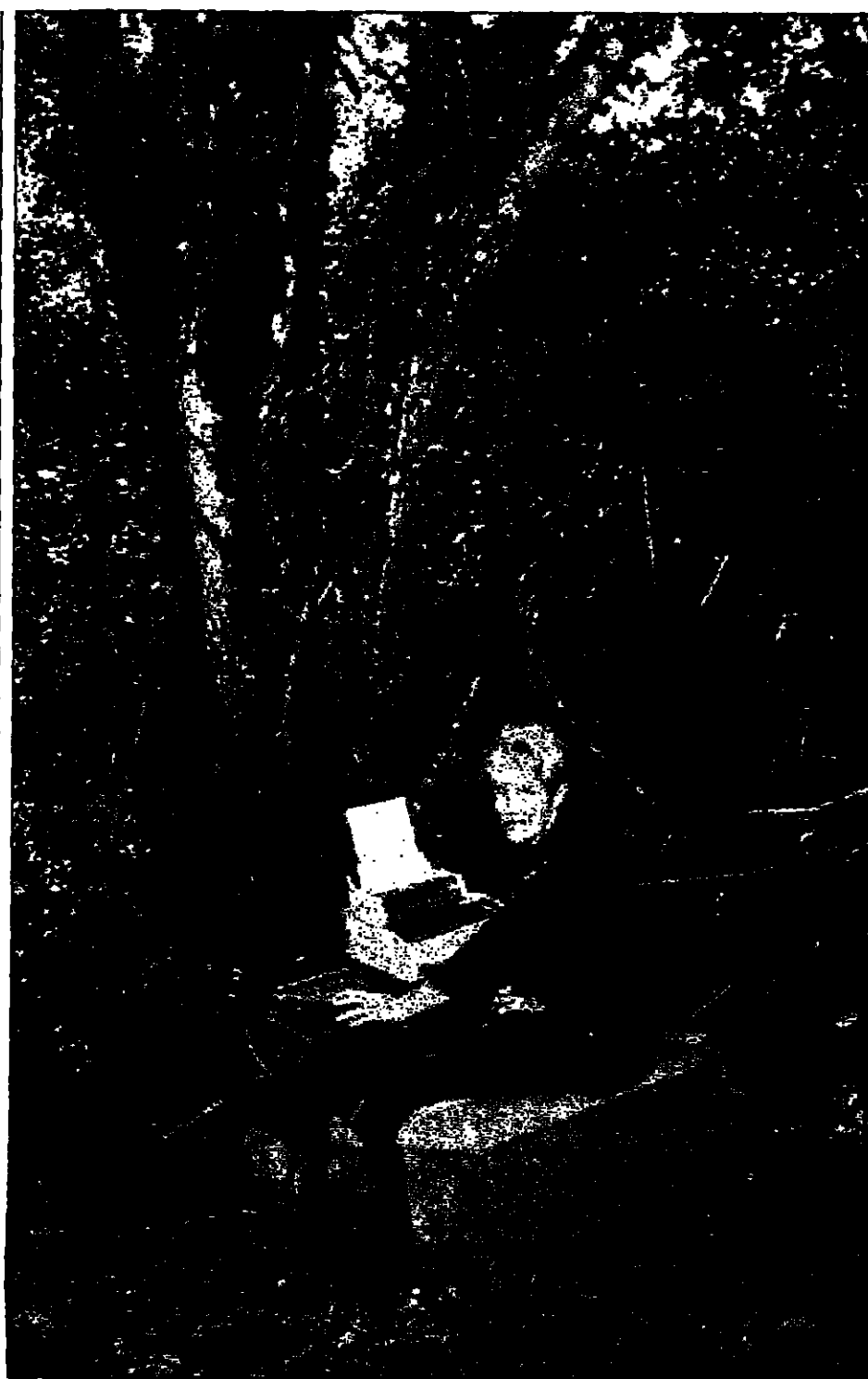
In an attempt at damage limitation, the White House formally replaced Craig Livingstone, the personnel security chief at the heart of the controversy, with Charles Easley, a veteran civil servant hired during the Reagan Administration.

The previous night, Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, had launched a "complete and thorough" investigation by the FBI which for the first time would involve countless interviews with White House staff about the files. Mr Starr said that he lacked the jurisdiction to investigate the matter himself.

Bringing further prominence to the issue, some leading Republicans whose files Mr Livingstone obtained in 1993 said they were contemplating filing a class action lawsuit against the White House.

Loyal White House staff and Democrats on Capitol Hill are even wondering whether the Administration may have shot itself in the foot by placing a relatively inexperienced political aide such as Mr Livingstone in so sensitive a position.

"Even if it was an innocent bureaucratic mistake — which I am sure it was — the files just may have brought this to a critical mass where voters are no longer prepared to give the Clintons the benefit of the doubt," admitted one Democratic staffer privately.



Anna Roosevelt, whose research challenged the history of American settlements

Experts attack new theory on first Americans

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

ANNA ROOSEVELT, a great-granddaughter of Theodore Roosevelt, the former US President, was criticised yesterday for her theory that the first Americans came to the continent by sea.

Miss Roosevelt, 50, an archaeologist, presented newly found prehistoric art on cave walls in the Amazon jungle and challenged the long-held theory that man first reached America by migrating across the ice-bound Bering Strait from Asia. She argued that South American settlements as early as 11,000 BC predated any Bering arrivals.

Her thesis blew a hole in cherished notions of the continent's bison-chasing ancestors, the Paleoindians. Miss Roosevelt also derided "Victorian England's" image of Stone Age women as cave-proud homemakers who stayed by the hearth while the men hunted for food. She said that they, too, foraged.

Yesterday, however, Miss Roosevelt was criticised by a senior member of the Smithsonian Institution for her "spurious" claims. Betty Meggers, a veteran American prehistorian, said that Miss Roosevelt's claims were not subjected to rigorous peer review and did not contain adequate "corrective analysis". Other senior archaeologists wrote letters of dissent to *Science*, the journal which published Miss Roosevelt's vivid claims in April.

One critic of her work said: "The fact that she is a Roosevelt means she has high-level contacts. She has been using her patrician muscle."

Miss Roosevelt, who is attached to the University of Illinois, found food waste, spearheads and paintings in a cave in Brazil's Monte Alegre region. Dating of 50 samples suggested the cave was inhabited for more than a millennium, starting as early as 11,000BC. Were these earlier Americans than the Asians who crossed the Bering Strait? People speculated that Miss Roosevelt's settlers were the forebears of the Aztecs, the forefathers of early Andean civilisations. The crucible of American civilisation shifted from the northern plains to Miss Roosevelt's hot little cave in Amazonia.

Pleasant descriptions of Miss Roosevelt appeared in American newspapers, praising her "ground-breaking" work and hinting at a female version of Indiana Jones. The *New York Times* described her tomboyish field garb of blue jeans and untucked shirt, topped by horn-rimmed glasses and pale complexion. Her ten-hour days were detailed, as was her brisk approach to discipline among co-workers. "We should do more work and less chatting," she would bark. Anyone interrupting her dig was likely to have a trowel thrown at him.

The trowels are now flying in a different direction. A University of Kentucky Paleoindian expert, Thomas Dillehay, questioned Miss Roosevelt's separation of the layers of the cave floor. Other archaeologists raised questions about her presentation of carbon-dating test results, which can have a wide margin of error.

Junta in call for Suu Kyi dialogue

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Burmese Government yesterday denied that it was about to restart Aung San Suu Kyi, the opposition leader, and said it was trying to promote a dialogue with her.

The denial followed speculation that the State Law and Order Restoration Council was going to crack down again on Daw Suu Kyi after defiant rallies and her attempt to organise a meeting of her National League for Democracy. The Nobel Peace Prize-winner was released from six years' house arrest last July.

A Burmese newspaper com-



Suu Kyi: urged to show "flexibility"

mentary said the Government knew that dialogue was needed for genuine reconciliation. It was therefore establishing cordial relations for peace. But it called on the opposition to show flexibility instead of what it called "dogmatic, destructive spirits".

Burma's military regime has given out confusing signals in recent weeks, at times appearing to be ready for a dialogue with Daw Suu Kyi, and at others signalling a new tough line. Newspapers yesterday also attacked outside interference in Burmese affairs, an apparent reference to a recent Asian tour by two US envoys trying to co-ordinate a response to the increased tension between Burma's Government and the opposition.

Leading article, page 21

Gunman confesses to 'Zodiac' killings

BY QUENTIN LETTS

A HIGHLY disturbed man who surrendered to police after a gunfight has confessed to being the "Zodiac killer" who terrorised New York six years ago.

Heriberto Seda, 29, a ponytailed oddball, admitted he was the man who in 1989 vowed to kill 12 people — one for each sign of the Zodiac. The Zodiac killer is suspected of taking three lives, and is credited with four other violent attacks. The series of attacks created much public unease.

Mr Seda was arrested on Tuesday after a three and a half hour police siege of his family house in Brooklyn. During the stand-off, he fired numerous rounds at police barricades and before he gave himself up, surrendered 13 homemade guns which he placed in a bucket lowered from the building's roof. A cache of weaponry, pipe bombs, devil worship books, crossbows, knives and bomb-making manuals was later found at his apartment elsewhere in the city.

During the siege, Mr Seda wore what appeared to be a helmet or saucerpan on his head. Neighbours said he had a history of lunacy, and

'Three strikes' strangler convicted

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

A MAN linked since 1993 to a killing that triggered the campaign for California's controversial "three strikes" law has been convicted of murder and could now face the death penalty.

As the verdict was read in a trial that has simmered with tension since it began, Richard Allen Davis turned to a television camera in court and made an obscene gesture that prosecutors plan to use as evidence of a lack of remorse when he is sentenced.

Minutes later Marc Klaas, the father of Davis's victim, 12-year-old Polly Klaas, applauded the jury for having "brought the hammer of the law down on this son of a bitch as hard as it's ever going to come".

Mr Klaas was an ardent advocate of the legislation which requires a life sentence after three criminal convictions. Davis, who has spent 17 of the past 21 years in jail, was on parole when he abducted Polly from a "slumber party" and strangled her.

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The height of pilot humour

The chance that thousands of holidays and business trips will be thrown into chaos this summer is now a distinct possibility.

We should know the worst within two weeks when the result of a strike ballot among more than 3,000 British Airways pilots is published. Indications from an opinion poll suggest that they could be ready to walk out — right at the summer peak.

It is curious that pilots, who are regarded as among the calmest of professionals, should now be getting so excited that they are prepared to ground Britain's biggest airline and dent its image, and their own too. However strong their case, it will be difficult for them to elicit much sympathy from the public when the salaries of the most senior pilots nudge £100,000 a year and they retire at 55, even though the most junior earn under £20,000.

The likelihood still is that BA will back down or that the pilots will compromise. But it has not come to a strike ballot before and a settlement is by no means a foregone conclusion.

The reasons for the pilots' actions are many and highly technical and the airline may not have handled the problems as well as it might. So I make no judgment on which side has the best case. It would, however, be a pity if the image of pilots were to be



The Travel Business
HARVEY ELLIOTT

tarnished by an industrial dispute.

Not only are pilots skilful and professional, they can also be delightfully cynical and witty — as this selection from a list of flight deck aphorisms published in the latest issue of the pilots' union magazine, *The Log*, clearly shows:

□ Things go right gradually, but things go wrong all at once.

□ There is no limit to how bad things can get.

□ Don't believe in miracles — rely on them.

□ A bird in the hand is safer than one in an engine.

□ Anything adjustable sooner or later needs adjusting.

□ No two identical parts are alike.

□ If you consult enough experts you can confirm any opinion.

□ No one is watching until you make a mistake.

□ If you explain it so clearly that nobody can misunderstand, somebody will.

□ When in doubt, predict that the trend will continue.

Let us hope that the dispute is resolved. Otherwise another of their aphorisms may prove to be all too apposite: It always ends up costing more than you think.

Bargains of the week — latest offers on holidays, travel and accommodation

HOLIDAYS

BRAC, the white stone island off Croatia's Adriatic coast, is welcoming tourists again with Phoenix Holidays offering a week's bed and breakfast hotel accommodation for £366 a person with a flight from Gatwick on June 28 and for £351 with a flight from Manchester on July 3. Details: 0345 626468.

■ CYCLING through the Loire Valley on an organised trip departing next Monday is available from Explore Worldwide. The 13-day holiday costs £635 a person, including return flights, bed and breakfast at hotels en route, 18-gear mountain bikes and luggage-moving service. Details: 01252 319448.

■ SRI LANKA all-inclusive for £579 a person for 12 nights with a flight from Heathrow next Tuesday is on offer from Holiday Place, with accommodation at the three-star Pegasus Reef Hotel. Details: 0171-435 8071.

■ FUERTEVENTURA for a fortnight's self-catering holiday is available for £229 a person, a saving of £265 on the brochure price, with a flight from Manchester on June 26 from Unijet. Details: 01444 459000.

■ CONSERVATION holidays working with the National Trust are still available in June for £42 a week, including working on fences on the Holmston estate in the Quantock Hills, and walling and riverbank work in Lydford Gorge, Dartmoor. Details: 01285 644727.

■ DISCOUNTS are on offer from Secret Spain for last-minute bookings for villas in the Asturias region, available from June 27, with reduced fares available on P&O and Brittany Ferries services to Bilbao and Santander. Details: 01449 737664.

■ EGYPTIAN adventure tours, departing July 2 and 30, are available for £459 a person, a saving of £70, from Top Deck. The 15-day holidays includes three nights on a felucca down the Nile, two nights in a tent village and a week in a 3-star hotel. Details: 0171-244 3641.

■ VIRGIN Holidays is targeting Washington to mark Virgin Atlantic's new service from Heathrow to the US capital. Fly-drive holidays, July 1 to 21, start from £299 a person, including a week's car hire. Five nights at a city-centre hotel cost an extra £100. Details: 01293 61781.



Brac, an island off Croatia, welcomes tourists again with a week's accommodation for £366

FERRIES

STENA Line is cutting 50 per cent off Dover-Calais returns through selected travel agents, reducing standard summer prices to £129. Details: 0990 707070.

■ HOVERSPEED is matching Le Shuttle's summer fare of £129 on its Dover-Calais route (£109 until July 15). It also has a £109 fare on the Folkestone-Boulogne route (£99). Five-day fares from Dover cost £69. Details: 01304 240241.

■ DRIVELINE Europe also has five-day Dover-Calais crossings for £89 for a car and five passengers, and standard returns for £139. Details: 01707 660011.

■ P&O EUROPEAN Ferries has a 36-hour return fare from Portsmouth to Le Havre or Cherbourg for £19, for a car and up to five passengers (£10 supplement for Friday night, additional passengers £5). A ten-day fare is £149, for a car and two passengers (£10 supplement for Friday, additional passengers £9). Both available until September 30. Details: 0990 980980.

■ SALLY Ferries is selling £79.20 returns on its routes from Ramsgate to Ostend and Dunkirk until December 23 (£69 to June 30), and has a £40 five-day return. Details: 0800 636465.

FLIGHTS

INTRODUCTORY fares from £39 one way are being offered by the new carrier Debonair for flights linking Luton with Barcelona, Madrid and Munich. Details: 0500 146200.

■ BRITISH Airways and the Chilean airline DAP have the first scheduled link between Britain and the Falkland Islands. Flights, via Santiago, cost from £1,340 or £940 for relatives and resident families. Details: 0345 222111.

■ SABENA has introduced a £75 Saver fare allowing "open jaw" flexibility. So you can fly from Heathrow to Brussels and return to London City or vice-versa. Alternatively fly to Antwerp and back from Brussels. Details: 0181-780 1444.

■ AB Shannon has introduced business class between Gatwick and Shannon. Tickets cost between £95 and £95 return. Details: 0345 464748. And Aer Lingus has improved its business class between the UK and Ireland with wider seats and upgraded catering. Details: 0181-549 4747.

■ TRAVEL Warehouse charges £79 for round-trip tickets to Zurich flying from Luton with the Swiss carrier Edelweiss Air. The fare is valid year-round on selected days of the week. Details: 0171-444 5825.

HOTELS

THE Montpelier Plantation Inn resort on the Caribbean island of Nevis has a three-weeks-for-the-price-of-two offer from £1,370 a person, including flights. Details: 01244 897999.

■ ISTANBUL'S five-star Dovan Hotel is celebrating its 40th anniversary in July with a 40 per cent discount rate, minimum two nights. Bookings are through the Summit Hotels Reservation system. Details: 0800 556555.

■ WHITBREAD Hotels this week opened its 117th and largest Travel Inn budget hotel at Morrison Street, Edinburgh. The 128-room hotel is priced at £35.50 a room a night. Details: 01434 41341.

■ LEARN to prepare and cook an Italian dinner party with the Hyde Park Hotel's resident Italian chef, Ralph Porciani, on the weekend of July 13. The two-day masterclass costs £199 a person (based on two sharing), including accommodation, meals and seminar. Single supplement is £95. Details: 0171-235 2000.

■ THE five member hotels of the Stagecoach Hotels group have launched a club for visitors aged over 55, including 25 per cent discounts on food. Details: 01256 398375.

■ THE Savoy Hotel in London has a special "Winemakers' dinner on July 5 created by the chef Anton Edelmann at which wine experts will discuss accompanying wines. Price is £65 a person, with a maximum of 30 guests. Details: 0171-420 2350.

■ THE Chester Grosvenor Hotel, 40 minutes' drive from Manchester airport, is cutting prices by 50 per cent during July and August. Rates are £60 a person a night based on two sharing, including full English breakfast. Details: 01244 324024.

■ THE Cadogan Hotel in Sloane Street, London, has a special London touring weekend from August 10, with two night accommodation, dinner and a guided tour around Buckingham Palace, the Tower of London and St Paul's Cathedral. The price is £249 a person and there is no single supplement. Details: 0171-235 7141.

■ FORTY of Forte's Heritage Hotels are offering summer midweek rates from £40 a person a night during July and August. Details: 0345 700350.

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Brussels gets tough on British passports

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

THE ARREST of a 76-year-old widow as she tried to enter Belgium without a passport has highlighted the increasing difficulty of travelling around Europe — if you are British.

Seven European countries — Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, France, Germany, Portugal and Spain — have signed the "Schengen agreement" enabling their citizens to travel without a passport, provided they have a recognised identity card.

But Britons, and travellers from other countries which have not signed such an

agreement, are being subjected to the same sort of rigorous checks which existed long before Britain joined the European Union.

Airlines have complained that this has created a two-tier travel regime, with some passengers able to pass unhindered through immigration while those from Britain are directed to a slow queue and have their passports examined minutely.

Passports are either checked on the Eurostar to Paris or subject to cursory inspection on arrival. On the train to Brussels, however, there are no such checks, and

on arrival passengers from Britain are routinely delayed by over-zealous police and immigration staff.

A spokesman for the Belgian Embassy in London said yesterday that the policeman who stopped Enid Wilson as she tried to visit her son, an EU official in Brussels, was "just doing his job".

"The regulations are quite clear," he said. "You must have a valid British passport to travel. You do not have identity cards in Britain so a passport is the only form of identity for travel."

"There have been a number of cases of this sort and we have asked Eurostar if they would make a check on passports before passengers board, as they do on the airlines. This would prevent such silly incidents as this from happening."

Eurostar has, however, rejected the idea. "It is not that simple," said a spokesman. "Not everyone who travels on the train comes from Britain or from Europe and some people need special visas. It would be impossible for our staff to check all the documents

and we argue that this is a matter between the two governments rather than for the carrier."

Eurostar is, however, planning to make the warning signs on the ticket indicating that passports will be needed far more noticeable than at present. And the Foreign Office said that it was examining ways of checking passports before passengers boarded the train, or of giving clear announcements both in the terminal and on the platform. Now that the Home Office has withdrawn both the British

Excursion document and the British Visitors' Passport, the only document which is valid for travel is the full passport which costs £18. The Home Office is examining options for introducing identity cards which could double as both a passport and a driving licence.

Moving around Europe is now easy for countries in the "Schengen" agreement. Flights from Spain to France, for example, are now regarded as internal or domestic with no more controls than are used for passengers flying between London and Edinburgh.

Italy, Greece and Austria are about to implement the agreement, creating a vast document-free travel zone at the heart of Europe. Only Britain and Ireland remain outside.

Britain decided that its boundaries had to be protected from illegal immigrants who might try to gain access through a third country within Europe, and refused to sign the Schengen agreement.

Now British passengers — especially those who forget their passport, or assume that they no longer need it — are being made to suffer the consequences.

Fodor takes gay lead

By TONY DAW

THE FIRST step towards recognising the power of the "pink pound" in the travel business comes today with the publication of Fodor's Gay USA.

The first comprehensive guide to be produced by a mainstream publisher, it provides essential information about transport, hotels, restaurants, banks and emergency numbers in 29 major American cities and resorts.

Its publication follows research in the United States which found that gays and lesbians represent an \$8 billion travel market and spend more money on tourism than any other consumer group.

The guide will be followed by more detailed ones on New York City, San Francisco and the Bay area, and Los Angeles and Southern California, and Fodor is also considering publishing gay guides to European cities including London.

Katharine Leck, Fodor's product manager, says: "Many other travel guides claim to have information for women, the disabled and gays but often it amounts only to a page or two. The purpose of the USA guide is not to identify ghettos but to point out places where a warm welcome is assured."

Gay travellers in Britain have to rely on specialist magazines for information about where they might be welcome, but Philippa Swain of the British Tourist Authority says that its New York office does occasionally target gays and lesbians as part of a programme to promote Britain to "young urban trends".

Some British cities and resorts, including Edinburgh, Blackpool and Brighton, have already established a reputation as being gay-friendly and local agencies are happy to provide information.

● Fodor's Gay USA, Fodor's Travel Publications, £14.99

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Squeeze on cheap air seats

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

CHEAP stand-by scheduled airline tickets and concessionary staff fares are under threat because of a growth in the number of passengers prepared to pay full price to ensure getting a seat on increasingly crowded aircraft.

Airlines are now selling record numbers of seats, especially in business class, and as a result profits are booming. A combination of an improvement in the economic climate for several countries and the use of sophisticated "yield management" techniques now ensures that almost every seat is filled on most flights.

So few unsold seats are now available that airlines are having to tell staff that they will not be able to claim their free or 10 per cent concessionary tickets on many of the popular routes, holders of Air Miles are finding it increasingly difficult to get a flight and some stand-by fares have been scrapped altogether.

Airline staff are attracted to the industry by the "perks" which often consist of unlimited numbers of tickets at 10 per cent of the normal price. After a certain length of service many staff are then entitled to at least one free flight a year and their immediate relatives can also benefit.

But such tickets are only sold "subject to availability" and now employees are routinely told that they cannot travel at peak times or on the most popular routes.

In an attempt to solve the problem British Airways has introduced the Travel Hotline, an in-house travel agency

which sells tickets to its 55,000 staff, and possibly four times as many dependants, at less than full fare but at much higher prices than they would normally be entitled to under the concessions.

"It has worked very well because the tickets they sell are confirmed seats, just as those sold to passengers," said a spokesman.

The International Air Transport Association (Iata) said in London yesterday that its 239 member airlines were expecting to make a total profit of more than \$6 billion (£3.9 billion) this year — their best results for more than ten years. One of the main reasons was that the number of seats on offer had either remained static or had been reduced by most carriers, while the number of passengers continued to increase.

The extra demand meant that prices, too, had gone up and the average load factor had soared to almost 70 per cent. There was now very little availability on the most popular routes and the only aircraft with empty seats were flying between cities with little attraction for leisure travellers seeking a bargain.

The total number of airline passengers last year increased by nearly 4 per cent to reach 1,107 million. The numbers are expected to double again within the next ten years, and for the first time the industry is cautiously optimistic that it will be able to make enough profit to invest in the costly new aircraft which will be needed to meet demand.



The Cape Bluebird, which is enjoying a South Africa travel boom, is flying charters to Cape Town from November

South Africa fares slashed

By STEVE KEENAN

THE COST of flying to South Africa has been slashed as competition on the route intensifies. Bluebird Express has reduced July and August fares from £599 to £399 on its Johannesburg charter with Caledonian Airways.

But while the UK market is growing, fares competition from European airlines has caused the cuts this summer, claims Bluebird managing director John Deverell.

"We are cutting prices to

compete with airlines like Alitalia and Olympic (Greece)," he says. "We thought prices would hold up but what has happened is that airlines such as Alitalia have introduced daily flights and have a lot of capacity." Alitalia currently has fares for travel via Rome for £513. British Airways also has a World Offers fare of £579. Competition is set to intensify further this winter, the peak period for travel to South Africa. A Britannia charter from the UK to Johannesburg starts in November, while Virgin Atlantic is due to start a service from October 2, competing with BA and South African Airways on the routes.

Bluebird also introduces charters to Cape Town and Durban from November 1.

The company has operated 42 flights to Johannesburg since last December, carrying 8,500 people to South Africa. Since opening an office in Johannesburg in March, the proportion of business from SA has grown to 25 per cent.

"The initial interest in South Africa has been phenomenal and we want to keep that alive. But two-thirds of people say they won't go unless the fares are there," says Mr Deverell.

Book early for a room with a five-star view

By DAVID CHURCHILL

LONDON'S leading luxury hotels have for the first time topped earnings of £100,000 per room per year as a result of the strong demand for top accommodation in the capital.

A 1996 hotel survey by consultants Horwath UK shows that the annual revenue per room from five-star hotels in London is now a record £106,940, almost three times the £35,497 earned from four-star first-class hotel rooms. Economy hotels, two star and below, generate only £15,050 per room.

Room revenue is based not only on achieved room rates — an average of £122.26 per night last year at London's luxury hotels — but also on spending on food and beverages, telephone charges, laundry and other services.

Jonathan Bodender, chairman of Horwath UK, says the

figures show that "even in an age of supposed austerity, demand in both occupancy and profitability per room is strongest for London's luxury hotels, who continue to attract high-spending visitors."

Such luxury hotels used to have low occupancy rates during the summer months when business travellers were scarce, but most hotels in the capital now report strong bookings all summer as executives seem unwilling or unable to take time off during traditional holiday periods.

While some holiday bargains in top hotels are still available, these are more dependent on room availability than before. One London luxury hotelier said: "We have to offer these bargains to leisure customers at this time of the year because everyone else seems to do so. But we

could really fill our rooms with business people paying close to full rates."

Buoyant bookings for top hotels in London and other capital cities is causing a severe shortage of space for top executives, show-business personalities and sports stars, who are used to booking in automatically.

"It can be a bit of a nightmare at times," admits Michael Gray, general manager of the Hyatt Carlton Tower Hotel in Knightsbridge. "The stars are very keen to ensure they have the top suite when they stay." Recently Sylvester Stallone decamped to the Dorchester in a huff because Madonna was already in place in the £1,500 a night Presidential Suite at the Hyatt. "We hope he comes back next time," said Mr Gray.

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Le Shuttle ends DIY cash saver

CANNY Channel Tunnel travellers have been saving money by buying two Le Shuttle rail tickets rather than one, Harvey Elliott writes.

Special day return tickets for a car and passengers could be bought for as little as £29, Tony Walton bought two £29 tickets and used the outbound portion of one on a Friday and the return portion of the other on the Sunday. "But Le Shuttle noticed and surcharged me £64.50 for a single return journey," he said.

Le Shuttle says: "Technically it was not illegal, but we had to do something. Our new basic return fare is £129. The cheapest day return now costs £49 and can be used only between 10am and 6pm."

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Excessive exposure can lead to early wrinkles

Victims of the sun

SMART as they were, three out of the four enormous exotic Ascot hats pictured in *The Times* yesterday would not have protected their wearers' face from the sun. When dressing for Ascot, the last concern of Claire Callot, from Provence, would probably have been her complexion in 20 years' time. But if she had read this week's *Pulse*, she might have thought again.

The magazine has recently published a series of coloured photographs illustrating a review by Tim Mitchell, a doctor in Bristol University's dermatology department, about the sun's effect on the skin. Dr Mitchell's pictures do not illustrate the range of tumours that can be triggered by over-exposure to the sun but they do show its effect on the complexion and how it accelerates the ageing process.

The complexion is particularly vulnerable in people who spend 50 weeks a year in a dark city office and two weeks sunbathing in the Mediterranean. People who are constantly exposed to the weather — for example, enthusiastic gardeners — do not seem to suffer to the same extent.

Dr Mitchell explains that not all the lines on a face are caused by sunlight: deep creases that furrow the brow, or divide the



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

check from the nose and lips (the nasolabial grooves), are, he says, the result of the effect of gravity on facial tissues rendered lax by ageing.

On the other hand, it is the sun that causes the multitude of fine lines that can be etched across the face of those who have had too much of it. The signs of excessive exposure to sun manifest themselves first as fine creases and wrinkles around the eyes. Eventually, the skin of the whole face and forehead is creased and lined.

As well as damaging the structure of the skin itself, the sun weakens connective tissue of the blood vessels. The dark purple bruise spots seen on the back of older people's hands and arms are more common in sun-worshippers than in people who cover up.

Younger people, too young to show the bruises of old age, develop bright red spots and enlarged veins in their complexion when the walls of the small blood vessels are weakened by sunlight.

The complexion in people exposed in their latter years to too much ultraviolet light assumes a sallow tone. The physiological reason for this is unknown, but this change is marked on the sides and back of the neck: the same areas where deep lines are the fault not of the sun, but of gravity.

Curing one dose with another



PEPYS, in his diaries, didn't distinguish between gonorrhoea and NSU (nonspecific urethritis), which produce similar symptoms. He described both as gleet and tended to discount them as the cost of having a varied sex life.

Gonorrhoea is now thought of by the layman as being the more dangerous, and certainly less socially acceptable. The symptoms of chlamydia, the organism which causes NSU, are usually less dramatic than those of gonorrhoea, but can be more damaging. Chlamydial infections, being less acute, can pass undetected while they insidiously destroy the lining of the Fallopian tubes, leaving women infertile.

Dr Elizabeth Carlin and Dr Simon Barton of the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital have written in the *International Journal of Sexually Transmitted Disease* about the use of a new antibiotic, Zithromax (azithromycin), in the treatment of NSU. Unlike other treatments which require courses of antibiotics, azithromycin can be taken as one large dose by mouth.

A greater number of the contacts of the patients treated with the one-dose treatment attended the clinic for examination than did the partners of patients who had been prescribed the longer course of antibiotics, which was formerly standard therapy.

Pouring oil on troubled waters



ASPIRIN and fish oil are two homey substances which are rapidly assuming the status of 20th-century wonder drugs. The latest use of fish oil, described in a report in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, is in the treatment of Crohn's disease.

The disorder is an inflammatory disease of the gastro-intestinal tract which usually starts before the age of 30 and can attack any part of the gut from the mouth to the anus. The ulcers of Crohn's are deep and involve all layers of the intestinal wall. The disease causes pain, diarrhoea, fever, weight loss and sometimes intestinal obstruction.

The report describes the effect of giving fish oil to 78 Italian patients with Crohn's, whose disease was in remission. All had a strong likelihood of suffering a relapse in the near future.

The patients were divided into two groups. One half was given placebo while the other half took nine capsules of fish oil daily. By the end of the first year, 11 of the 39 patients taking fish oil had relapsed, while 27 of the 39 on placebo had developed further trouble.

By the end of the second year, twice as many of those on fish oil, rather than on placebo, had relapsed. Fish oil should not be confused with fish liver oil.

The sensuality game



America has banned Claudia Schiffer's lingerie ad. But are ads necessary at all? Giles Coren reports

The tall blonde tugs at her underwear as she gyrates to the beat of jungle drums. "Every day," she breathes softly at the camera, "every sexy way." A hopeful young starlet waylaid by the lure of softcore pornography? Not at all. It is supermodel Claudia Schiffer performing in a 30-second commercial for lingerie company Victoria's Secret.

But the major US networks have refused to run it. Not only has the lingerie company been asked to submit a toned-down version of the commercial, but ABC has refused to run even the tamer version before 10pm, while NBC and CBS have imposed a 9pm watershed on Ms Schiffer's saucy sales pitch. It is all a far cry from those Playtex Cross-Your-Heart Bra ads of the 1970s, where a woman in flesh-coloured undies demonstrated the redoubtable bra-siere's ability to "lift and separate".

Victoria's Secret, clearly aware of the profit-inducive publicity such an uproar might generate, may have taken its lead from Calvin Klein, whose underwear advertisements last year, apparently using under-age models in provocative poses, incited the fury of pro-family Christian groups in America and led to their withdrawal.

While the furor rages on the other side of the Atlantic, we are experiencing a wave of national soul-searching ourselves. All over the country vast posters are appearing that show a beautiful woman, dressed only in her underwear, reclining on a bed of straw. Above her the legend runs: "Who said women can't get pleasure from something soft?" Certainly not the woman who visited one near the Old Vic in central London, and sprayed "Sad Sexists" all over it in red paint.

The incident, not an isolated one, is reminiscent of one of the most defaced poster campaigns in the history of advertising. In the early 1990s the Swedish clothes company Hennes ran a campaign featuring a woman in underwear with the slogan "What the au pair will be wearing this winter". After a deluge of complaints to the Advertising Standards Authority it ran a campaign the next year that actually boasted about the offence caused. Same sort of picture, but this time the words were: "Last time we ran an ad for Swedish lingerie 78 women complained. No men." Fodder for the emergent new lads, perhaps, but more complaints to the ASA saw the poster withdrawn.

Our first move was to show a cross-section of women different images and sentences, and establish which best represented how they felt about the product, what we call "sensuality positioning". Sensuality is the key word, as opposed to sexuality, which used to be the important thing. A woman can take pleasure in her own sensuality, as opposed to worrying how men perceive her. After the positioning we went back to the women with our poster and got very positive responses from them.

But the image of a half-naked woman in a haystack is a stock archetype of the Western sexual imagination, not to mention a favourite porn mag pose. This did not faze them, says Ms Courtney.

One woman told us "It's a good statement for women", and another said "She's liberated, clever and confident. This gives women a boost."

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Claudia Schiffer in the banned commercial; above left, an ad from a more innocent age

want from their bra? Do women feel undermined or, as it were, uplifted?

According to Mandy Courtney, account director at Abbott Mead Vickers, which made the woman-in-a-bed-of-straw campaign for Gossard, it is all about "sensuality positioning".

"Our first move was to show a cross-section of women different images and sentences, and establish which best represented how they felt about the product, what we call 'sensuality positioning'. Sensuality is the key word, as opposed to sexuality, which used to be the important thing. A woman can take pleasure in her own sensuality, as opposed to worrying how men perceive her. After the positioning we went back to the women with our poster and got very positive responses from them."

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Not so fast, however, that Marks & Spencer needs to pander to it. It already has 34 per cent of the underwear market, selling a million pairs of knickers and 500,000 bras every week in Britain. It does not advertise at all.

"We don't need gimmicks to sell our underwear," says Laura Middleton of M&S. "These others have to sell an aspirational image about sheer sex appeal. The ads are very clever, but they don't turn me on. They don't even make me smile. I just think how very sad that someone has to stoop so low. They are obviously created by a man, no woman would ever do that."

And, indeed, the Gossard ad was written by men. Men who had seen the poster of Jane Russell in *The Outlaw* — which caused an outcry in its own time. And Claudia Schiffer is distinguishable from the other supermodels not as the one most admired by women, but the one most desired by men. It is a long way, sexually, from the Israeli firm that used a picture of Margaret Thatcher to advertise its knickers, with the slogan "In the end we remember those who had balls".

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Playing for the ghosts of Croatia

Davor Suker, star of Euro 96, cannot forget his dead countrymen. Interview by Jason Cowley

Through his displays of virtuoso brilliance, his uninhibited style and his confidence in attempting the outrageous, the Croatian footballer Davor Suker has become the most luminous star in his country's many-talented team.

His match-winning performance against Denmark on Sunday night was notable not only for his two goals but also for the intensity and passion of his patriotic commitment. When he and his colleagues, many of whom have lost relatives and friends in the war with Serbia, assembled before the game to sing their national anthem, hands clasping their red and white checkboard shirts as if in prayer, one sensed that here was a group of young men united by more than the usual desire to win an important football match.

Rather, they were united by a deep compulsion and the realisation that the strivings of the Croatian football team, which emerged out of the ashes of the old Yugoslavia, mirror those of the nation itself. For after years of destruction and brutality and the sacrifices demanded by the government in order to develop a powerful indigenous army, the success of the "Croatian commandos" has captured the mood of national renewal and expectation.

Although Suker has lived for the past four years in Spain, where he has just signed for Real Madrid on a four-year contract worth a reported £5 million, his life has

been overshadowed by war, or by the memory of war. He was born to poor parents in Osijek on January 1, 1968, and whenever he returns to his home town, the scene of sustained Serb hostilities, he views the familiar places and haunts of his childhood through a mist of tears. The school where he learnt to play football, the Roman Catholic church where he worshipped and the social club where he mingled at weekends are now little more than rubble. His

'I tried to get my parents to leave, but they refused'

parents' modest house still carries the scars caused by bullets and exploding grenades. "When I go back, I can't believe what I see," he says. "Ancient buildings and churches have been destroyed, the culture of a whole area ruined." Suker's English is slow, hesitant and fractured. Much of what he says is filtered through his interpreter Miladen Petrecki.

The civil war began in Croatia in July 1991, shortly after the country had declared its independence from the Yugoslav federation. Watching events unfold grimly on

Spanish television, Suker longed to be reunited with his father, the former Yugoslav shuttler Tomislav Suker, his mother Milka and sister Nevenka. "My parents spent much of the war living underground in cellars that were used as air-raid shelters. Their life was appalling. The conditions were terrible underground; it was so damp and my father suffered with his health. He contracted pleurisy and had to have some ribs removed to help him to breathe."

On several occasions Suker attempted in vain to persuade his parents to come to live with him in Seville, where he was then playing. "I tried to get them to come to live with me, but they refused to leave. I think they loved their country too much and, anyway, they also wanted to show solidarity to the other families in the town who could not leave."

Asked if he felt any guilt about enjoying a millionaire's lifestyle while his friends and family suffered, Suker shakes his head sombrely. "It was very difficult. Sometimes when I called my family on the telephone I could hear the bombs and grenades exploding in the background."

Set by worry, he became restless, confused and anti-social; his nights were often sleepless. "I saw the atrocities on television. I saw what was happening to Osijek, Vukovar and Dubrovnik. But, at the same time, I felt that I was an ambassador for my country. In Spain I was known as the Croat Suker, and whenever I was interviewed I used the opportunity to explain what was happening and what the war was about. This was how I served my country. I know other people gave their lives, but I was doing my best."

Suker says that if he closes his eyes he can see the faces and hear the voices of his friends, some of whom were teammates at his former clubs Osijek and Dinamo Zagreb, who died defending Vukovar and Dubrovnik against the invading Serb forces. "I will never forget my friends who died fighting for our independence. The pain of remembering is very great." His voice drops to a whisper and he sighs. Then, as a group of his teammates pass clutching their mobile phones and, more surprisingly, their packs of cigarettes, he lifts his head: "But we won. We are free now."

To hear a footballer speak in this way, particularly after a lifetime of listening to the banal platitudes of so many players, is to have one's preconceptions shattered. And yet in many ways, Suker, with his Versace clothes, fondness for fast cars and eye for the main chance (he negotiates all sponsorship and advertising deals for the entire Croatian squad), is the epitome of the modern, money-driven footballer. He appears relaxed and at ease in the surroundings of the team's hotel, set on the edge of Rutland Water in acres of rolling English countryside. For one whose boyhood was

poor and difficult, luxury no longer phases him. There is also something, superbly worldly about him. He is used to attention. The hotel is swarming with sportswriters, with reporters from the Italian, French, Portuguese and Spanish dailies and others from the glossy soccer week-



Davor Suker: "no greater genius in football"

lies Shoot and Match. But Suker greets all requests for interviews with patience and the same benign smile. Despite the claim by his coach Miroslav Blazevic that "there is no greater genius in football than Suker" it has been said by some in Spain that success and fame have changed him. They believe

that his extravagant talent made him impatient with and intolerant of his former teammates at Seville.

Many Andalusians were also dismayed when he described the club for which he had played for four years as "mediocre", adding that it could never help him to fulfil his ambitions. "Look," he says, when I mention this, "football is my game. I scored 76 league goals for Seville, and before that, 167 goals for my clubs in Croatia. I have also scored 20 goals in 21 games for the Croatian national team. I need to play for a big club, a club that will give me a stage on which to perform to realise my ambitions."

There are few bigger clubs than Real Madrid. But first there is the small matter of Croatia's appearance in the quarter-finals of Euro 96. While there may be stronger teams in the tournament, few play with greater flair and audacity than the Croatia and none with more pride or nationalistic fervour.

"I know every team has pride in their country, but none can surely feel what we feel when we play and wear the insignia of Croatia," Suker says. "All of us have been affected by what happened in the war; people of my own age died; many mothers are left without sons. These are the pictures we carry in our heads when we play for Croatia." Their next opponents would do well to remember that.



Despite living and playing in Spain Davor Suker's life has been overshadowed by war in his homeland

Saviour of the urchins

BY HER late twenties, Sarah de Carvalho was well on the way to becoming one of the country's top television producers, working on successful programmes such as *Top of the Pops* and *The Late Late Breakfast Show*. Born into a middle-class family in Surrey, Sarah had begun work at 19 as a junior secretary for Warner Brothers; she swiftly moved into film promotion, and then made a highly successful transition to television.

But by 1987 she was feeling restless. "I didn't feel satisfied. I kept asking myself: what am I looking for?"

In November of that year Sarah's cousin Fiona dragged her along to a service at Holy Trinity Brompton.

The effect was instantaneous, she

says. "It was as though my whole body had become flooded with a warm heat. I knew that I had been touched by God." She signed up for the church's 13-week Alpha course — an introduction to basic Christian beliefs — and began helping out at a London shelter for the homeless. She then asked God what purpose He had for her. "Suddenly I heard in my thoughts, 'I want you to go to Brazil.'"

Sarah moved to Borel, one of the most dangerous shanty towns in Rio de Janeiro, on a mission to save street children from a childhood destroyed by drugs and alcohol and extermination squads, where 35 per cent die on the streets before they reach the age of 18. Five years on, with the help of her Brazilian husband, she has set up the Happy Child Mission. Children are taken to a farm 15 miles outside Belo Horizonte. Brazil's third largest city, where Sarah and her husband live with their two children and up to 30 urchins. Here, she says, "they learn to become children again". The mission aims to reunite them with their parents, or find foster homes.

Sarah says: "Sometimes I despair, but then I see a life transformed, and I know why I am doing it."

PIERS MCGRANDLE

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Sarah de Carvalho

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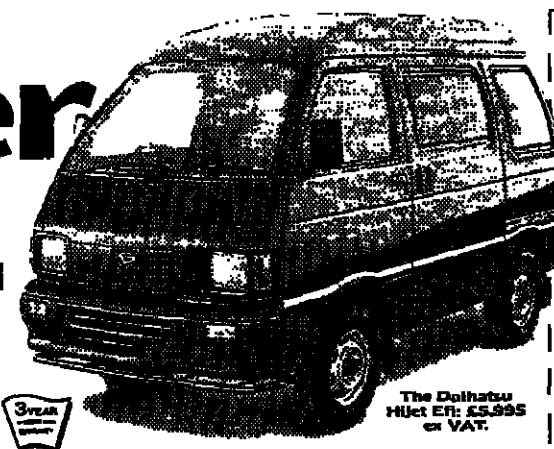
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Our money, our votes and our Ken

The Chancellor can still win the election, writes John Redwood

Money makes the world go round. It can also help the Government to win the next election. Ken Clarke holds in his hands the keys to a renewed popular mandate. The issue of whether to keep the pound or not is central to whether we continue as a Europe of Nations or move on to a single country governed from Brussels and Frankfurt.

Money in another sense is going to be at the heart of the next election, and could prove to be the big issue of the next Parliament. Should we keep the pound? Or should it be abolished, to be replaced by the euro?

Travelling the country and talking to many different groups, I find no general enthusiasm for the idea of scrapping our currency. On the contrary, I find a fear of what it might do to us, a growing recognition that it could be bad for our pockets and bad for our democracy.

We have had a dry run of what living with a single European currency would be like when we were in the exchange-rate mechanism. As if that weren't enough of a warning, if we join the euro we shall have to surrender our foreign exchange reserves to the Frankfurt central bank. We would no longer as a nation be able to treat our money as our own. The gold would be taken out of our vaults and sent abroad.

The impact this would have on our democracy worries me as much. Under the rules of the game, you and I are not allowed to influence the Frankfurt bank. Nor is the British Government. Suppose we had joined and that the new currency was too high against the dollar for our companies to manage. It would be no good writing to our MPs: be powerless. It would be no good writing to the British Government: it could only say that these matters were settled in Frankfurt. And there would be no point in writing to the central bank, as under the treaty it is obliged to ignore such letters.

Tony Blair says that he likes the idea of a single currency in principle. He never admits what a large transfer of power the single currency would represent. He never tells us that if as a result British unemployment rose, if businesses went bust, if homes were repossessed — as happened in the early 1990s under the exchange-rate mechanism — no government could do anything about it. Nor does he tell us why next time would be any different from last, when his party ardently supported the ERM experiment.

Over the past few years Conservatives have united behind the opinion that we will not put forward a single currency in the lifetime of this Parliament. Soon we need to bring this policy up to date. I would like the Government to rule out joining a single currency in the lifetime of the next Parliament. Then we could turn our fire on Tony Blair, and see how many of his followers really do want Britain to surrender the pound and commit itself to the whims of foreign central bankers.

The Prime Minister has said that he thinks a single currency during the next Parliament extremely unlikely. He has said that the requirements of the Maastricht treaty are the minimum that should be met before any country joins. Since most countries at the moment are miles away from hitting the demanding targets for debt levels, deficits, inflation, currency and interest rates, it would not be ruling out very much to rule out joining in the next few years.

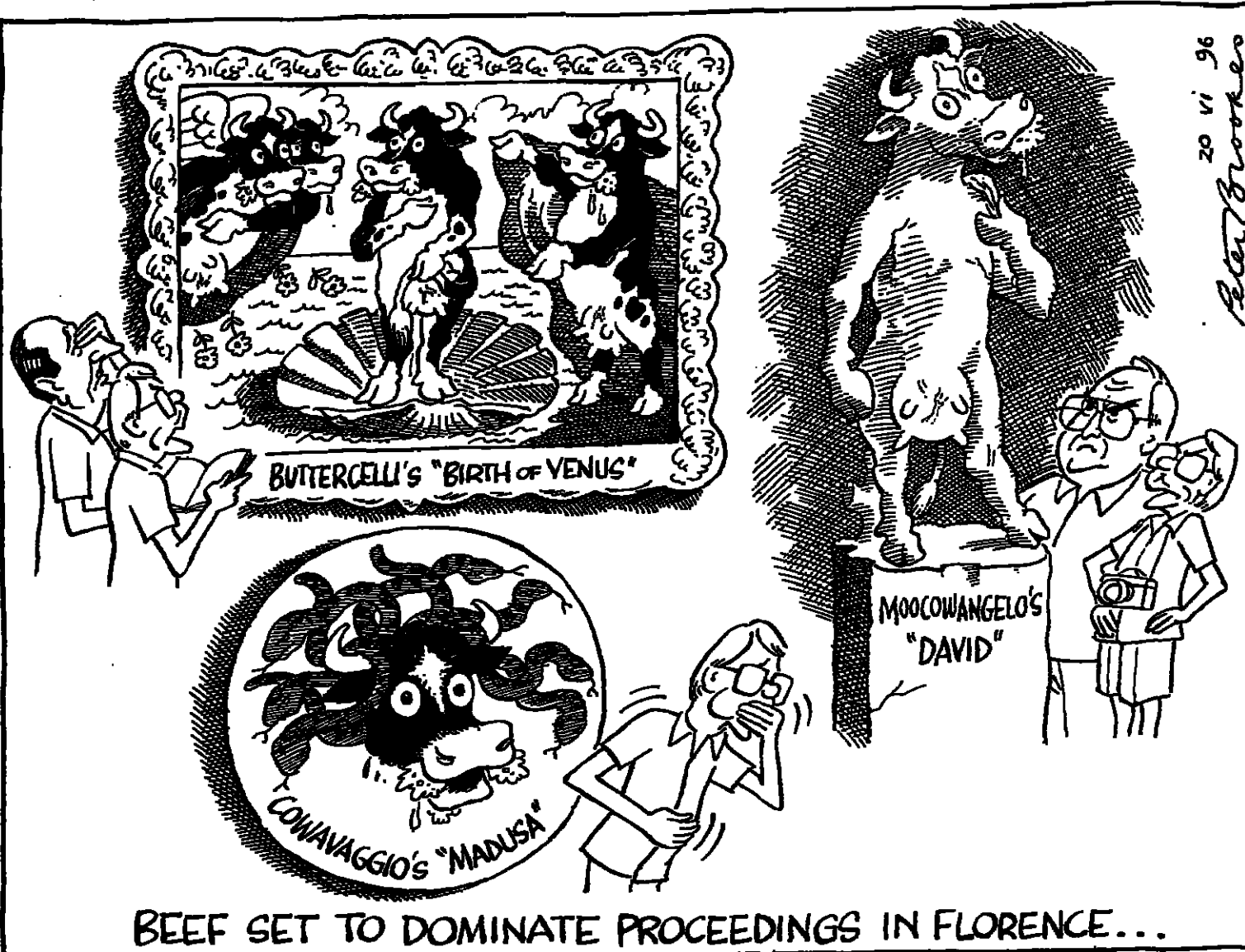
But it would achieve a great deal at home. It would give British voters a chance to choose between a party that is committed to merging us into a European government, and a party that believes in a Europe of nations. It would give Conservative candidates a new enthusiasm, something to sell: "Vote Conservative, and keep your country".

The debate so far has been about the less important issues. Can we print the Queen's head on the euro note? How many billions will it cost to change all the tills and cash machines? Could Britain join without spending two years in the exchange-rate mechanism? The fundamental issue is, does Britain wish to keep hold of the main levers of economic management or not?

The single currency is a massive step on the way to a single government. It is no mere technical matter. It is not some kind of magic, commission-free traveller's cheque. It means switching allegiance from Britain to Europe, it means new management of our affairs from afar, it means an end to a separate British economic policy. We would have to pay higher taxes to send grants and subsidies to Brandenburg, Prussia and other poorer parts of the currency union, just as we do within Britain at the moment. It would make general elections less important than the decisions of a few central bank governors meeting in Germany to settle our future.

In 1992, the Conservatives won the election against the odds, because people recoiled from Labour's tax plans. The Tory Government persuaded the electorate that it would leave people more of their own money to spend. It is time to fulfil that promise and show that Conservatives are back on tax-cutting form.

Last year's Budget showed the way, reducing spending plans by £3,200 million and cutting income tax by a penny in the pound. This year's Budget needs to be bigger and bolder, along the same lines. The good news is that there is a lot of padding in the figures. At the moment the Government says it is going to spend £11,200 million more — a huge increase. I think the public sector could manage with just £5,200 million more. That would allow enough for teachers, policemen, nurses and soldiers: we should look after our essential services. It would also mean that the Chancellor had £6,000 million to play with: quite a handy amount to use to cut taxes. To do that and give a pledge to keep the pound could be the keys to the next election.



See, the conquering hero

General Lebed's appeal to Russians may herald a revival of heroic politics

The learned Scottish patriot Andrew Fletcher of Saltoun observed that "if a man were permitted to make all the ballads, he need not care who should make the laws of a nation".

Last Tuesday, the morning service on Radio 4 opened with the hymn *Glorious things of Thee are spoken*, to the tune which in English hymn-books is usually called *Austria*. I remember that we sang the same hymn in Charterhouse chapel during the war with all the glee of schoolboy irony; the tune is the same as that of *Deutschland, Deutschland über Alles*, not then a popular sentiment in Britain. It is one of the most powerful songs of political history.

It has been a political song since 1797, when Franz Joseph Haydn took a Croatian folk-tune he had known since his youth, and used it for the *Emperor Anthem*. The Holy Roman Empire, which traced its ancestry, with some large gaps, back to Augustus, was in its very last years; it finally disappeared in 1806. The Imperial High Chancellor — a title now as remote as that of Ozymandias, King of Kings — Count von Sauran, was trying to counter the influence of the French Revolution.

"Regretting that we had not, like the British, a national song calculated to display to all the world the loyal devotion of our people to the king and upright ruler of our Fatherland... I caused the meritorious poet Haschka to write the words, and applied to our immortal countryman Haydn to set them to music, for I considered him alone capable of writing anything approaching in merit the English *God save the King*."

In 1809, Vienna itself was under the occupation of the nouveau Emperor Napoleon, who had destroyed the Holy Roman Empire and apparently destroyed the old Austria. Haydn was on his deathbed; he had himself carried to the piano and played the *Emperor Anthem*, the last music he ever played. A few days later he died.

In 1848, a later year of revolutionary enthusiasm, August Heinrich Hoffmann von Fallersleben, a German professor, wrote a poem about his ideal of German unity, *Deutschland über Alles*, which means "Germany before everything" and not, as has sometimes been supposed, "Germany over everybody". This poem was set to Haydn's music; Hoffmann himself was later deprived of his chair because his poetry was thought to be too liberal. In the late 1930s this

song was particularly important to the *Anschluss* which amalgamated Austria with Hitler's Germany; this *Deutschlandlied* was central to the musical propaganda of the Nazi regime, so much so that it was banned after 1945, and restored only in 1952, even then without the stanza containing the words "über Alles". Music helped to shape Hitler's megalomania. Shortly before the First World War, he went to an Austrian performance of Wagner's opera *Rienzi*: he was the plebeian leader of the Roman populace who in the middle of the 14th century sought to release them from the rule of the patricians and make Rome again the leading city of the world. Although *Rienzi*'s dream ended in disaster, in the opera as in real life, Adolf Hitler emerged from the performance with a conviction that it was his own destiny to give similar leadership to the German people. *Rienzi* was the work of Wagner which most influenced him. He persuaded the Wagner family to give him the manuscript, which apparently perished with him in his Berlin bunker in 1945.

Since 1945, Europe has been relatively free of the politics of heroic leadership, because the hero-leaders, particularly Hitler himself, led the European people into such criminal disasters. I remember Sir Oswald Mosley, who had hoped to be the English hero-leader in the 1930s, saying in the early 1970s: "How could I still call myself a Fascist, when my leader went barking mad and murdered millions of people?" For 50 years, Europe has been largely free of what Thomas Carlyle approvingly called *Heroes and Hero Worship*.

Yet the history of mankind shows that heroes have a grip on human psychology; one cannot suppose that 50 years of revulsion at the evil done by a particular generation of revolutionary heroes has permanently changed human psychology. As Carlyle observed, "worship is transcendental wonder"; the Greeks did wonder at Alexander the Great, the Romans at Julius Caesar, the French at

Napoleon, the Germans at Hitler and the Chinese at Chairman Mao. There is an aesthetic of power which links the hero-leader to his followers.

Fifty years is a long time for the collective subconscious to keep as quiet as the European admiration for heroes has since 1945. "Fascism" is the word we use to describe a historically obsolete form of this hero-worship of power. The continued devaluation of "Fascism" as a name does not mean that the thing itself has disappeared, any more than the idea of European unity disappeared with the Holy Roman Empire in 1806.

Political power, in both authoritarian and democratic regimes, derives more from the subconscious than the conscious popular mind. That is one reason why intellectuals often fail in political life: they aim at the wrong target in the human psyche, and use argument when they should appeal to emotion.

One of the reasons why Hitler was so successful as a politician, rising from nothing to be the most powerful European leader since Napoleon, was his understanding of the German collective subconscious: he used symbolism, rhetoric, art, architecture, mass marches and music to obtain control of minds. Wagner was his real teacher.

Europe is now seeing the first crop of hero-leaders since 1945; they are springing up like mushrooms in a green field. They have certain things in common. They are strong nationalists, and express the tribal loyalties of their people. They use the rhetoric of certainty. They make politics more colourful, more exciting. Their strong instinctual appeal contrasts with the drabness of the engineers of political consent who have risen to the top in most democracies. Because Helmut Kohl is a strong paternal figure, the German hero-politician has not yet appeared in opposition to him, but he will, sooner or later. In the meantime, there is Umberto Bossi in North Italy, Jean-Marie Le Pen in France and

Binyamin Netanyahu a little farther off in Israel, to tell us what the new hero-leaders of the Right may be like.

The latest hero-figure to emerge is General Aleksandr Lebed. It seems he has already knocked out one pretender to the hero-role, that grotesque clown Vladimir Zhirinovskiy. General Lebed offers Russia salvation through the hero's will. Russia has been through a period of economic disaster and political humiliation, not unlike that of Germany before 1933, and may be ready for a hero.

Because we have the experience of modern genocidal heroes — Hitler, Stalin and Mao — we tend to see all of these figures as evil. That was not the pre-20th-century view. Carlyle himself wrote: "No great man lives in vain. The history of the world is but the biography of great men." In the wars of our own century, Lloyd George, Churchill, Franklin Roosevelt and de Gaulle used the romantic mystique of greatness to defend the democratic nations. When writing of the great conquerors — Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, Napoleon — 19th-century historians balanced what they created against what they destroyed, and regarded some of their destruction as necessary, or even as creative in itself. The idea that all great men are evil belongs largely to the 20th century.

There can be no doubt that General Lebed sees himself as the strong man of Russia's future. His press secretary has said of his relationship with Boris Yeltsin that "they are alike in character, they have a strength, a confidence that attracts people like a magnet". Lebed is younger, physically stronger and personally more popular than Yeltsin. He portrays himself as a man who can crush crime and as a natural winner: he has been a tough fighting soldier. Even Yeltsin apparently sees him as the Russian leader for the year 2000, a millennial hero.

The appeal of General Lebed reflects the revival of heroic politics, and his success could reinforce it. Benito Mussolini paved the way for the dictators of the 1930s. If Italy could have the excitement of a Duce, why should not Spain or Germany?

The idea of a strong man in power is as old as the hills. Some of the great heroes of history, some of the great tyrants, and some of the great saviours, have been men of this kind. Nations can be walled away by the crescendo of hero-worship — we may now be hearing that song again. It is the song the Syrians sang.

Is Gazza another Drake?

Spain respects our pirates, says Tunku Varadarajan

Englishmen and Spaniards may have often scrapped, bickered, brawled and warred, but they have always had for each other a sneaking, piquant regard — as apparent on the frothing high seas of our history books as it will be on the playing fields of Wembley on Saturday.

Throughout history, each has been the twisted mirror-image of the other. And that is perhaps still true today. If John Bull is a loyal monarchist, so is proud Juan Toro. Both partake of the sharpest sense of nationhood in all Europe — sharper by far than that of the Frenchman, the German, the Italian and the Belgian — born of a shared seafaring past, a relish for empire, a glorious language and a well-honed arrogance. For each, the other has been the Oldest Enemy, too close in spirit to trust; and Saturday's tussle for supremacy on the football field will serve as the nearest metaphor for all that has ever passed between "the Iberia from which all evil comes" and "perfidious Albion".

Yet as England awaits the kick-off, the nation should acknowledge an important historical debt to Spain. It has not always been fashionable to endorse this, but it was Spain that cemented the English nation towards the end of the 16th century. Phillip II and the "Invincible" Armada aroused England, forcing her to define herself in adversity — forcing her, in effect, to be England. The first proper English hero, Sir Francis Drake (whose audacious assault on the large, dozing Spanish fleet at Cadiz in 1587 was the model for Pearl Harbor, the Israeli raid on Egypt's airfields and every other pre-emptive military strike) is still an accused figure in Spain. *El pirata Drake*, they call him in Spain: *los piratas*, many Spaniards still call the English. These should be seen as compliments of course, for they attest to the two virtues, daring and practicality, which Englishmen have always had and Spaniards almost never.

John Donne recognised this, in 1624, in a letter to Sir Robert Carr: "They have hotter daies in Spain than we have here, but our daies are longer; and yet we are hotter in our business here, and they are longer about it there." Daring and practicality marked Drake's clever fireships, which destroyed the stout, unwieldy ships of the Armada, darting in, releasing their broadsides and escaping before the heavier Spanish cannon could be brought to bear. The Duke of Medina Sidonia, "the pirates' adversary, was an honourable man in the Iberian mould. Strict obedience to orders took precedence over flair and improvisation. Drake was but one in a long line of English eccentrics, a species which the Spanish Kingdom did not then have and probably never will.

That country, of course, exceeds England in other virtues: dourness, and the romantic attachment to duty that goes with dourness. The footsloggers from Castille and Extremadura are the models for Javier Clemente's football team, worthy opponents for the men of Venables. Tough, muscular, indefatigable, even cruel, theirs is the tenacity of loyal subjects playing for an old, distinguished flag.

Tenacity, *a la española*, however, is the first cousin of cussedness and inflexibility, traits which Spain displays in abundance in the matters where the two nations still cross swords: fish and Gibraltar. The primordial fight over the New World, the 16th-century struggle for commercial, political and religious supremacy, is now reduced to a skirmish over cod and hake, and a tiny crumb of "Spanish" land on which the Union Jack flies. In both cases, Spain is wrong, plundering the seas off the English coast and punishing a handful of people who have the temerity to refuse (as is their right) to be Spanish. But there are those in England, Cornish fishermen, for example, and friends of Hong Kong — who admire Madrid's defence of its own interests, and who wish our own politicians were as unyielding as Spain's.

What has all this to do with soccer? Everything and nothing. Nothing because football is "just a game", and everything, because it is the underlying history of two nations which brings to life a sporting contest. This is not a perverse intrusion of politics onto the pitch, but exactly as it should be. The Ashes are provocative because Australians still use the cricket field to assert their independence. The Calcutta Cup has its fine taste of haggis because Scotland tries to do the same, usually in vain. Pakistan's cricketers pull out all the stops against India because they play for a new nation against the older metropolitans from whom they parted in blood 50 years ago.

Spain and England have no special history of rivalry on the football field, but their centuries of rich competition away from it — Catholicism versus Protestantism, Cervantes versus Shakespeare, romanticism versus common sense, bullfighting versus kindness to animals, austerity versus eccentricity — will give an awkward grace to Wembley on Saturday. Will Javier Clemente be the Duke of Medina Sidonia? Will Paul Gascoigne be Sir Francis Drake, *el pirata*? England expects, and Spain does too.

Substitution

THE PRINCESS of Wales had to play second fiddle to Euro 96 at a society dinner last night in Rome. Having paid \$1,000 a head to attend an event at a Renaissance palazzo where the Princess was guest of honour, football-crazy Italians insisted that television screens should be installed so that they could watch their match against Germany as they were eating.

The charity dinner and fashion



Mariuccia Mandelli

show was thrown by the Princess's designer friend Mariuccia Mandelli, owner of the Krizia fashion chain and chateleine of the "K" Club resort in Barbuda, where the

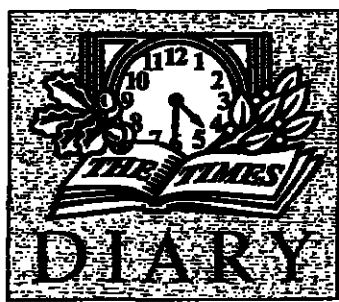
Princess recently enjoyed a holiday. Unusually, she attended with her sister, Lady Sarah McCorquodale — doubtless a frenetic football follower.

"The trouble was that nobody would turn out unless they could watch the football," said one glamorous Italian socialite. "It didn't matter that Princess Diana and Princess Caroline of Monaco were billed to attend. They would not come unless they could watch the football."

The Princess's office would not be drawn yesterday on whether she cares about football, although she is said to have lost interest since Gary Lineker hung up his boots. "It is a private visit to Rome," said her office. "We are not commenting."

No prizes

PARENT POWER has forced Emma Nicholson, MP for Torridge and West Devon, to draw as the guest of honour at a local prize day next week. Mark Turner, the headmaster at Kelly College, near Tavistock in Devon, asked the MP last August to hand



out the prizes at founder's day, but parents have complained, and gone to the length of having a leaflet printed.

"They say she's a bad model for students because she is a political traitor," says Mark Turner, the headmaster, referring to Nicholson's defection from the Tories to the Lib Dems. "Emma decided it would be less embarrassing to withdraw, but my father, the Bishop of Stockport, might stand in."

Emma Nicholson is unabashed. She says she was sorry to have had to stand down — but "these parents are being boorish."

Greenwich may be hosting the millennium celebrations but its logo is likely to be funny. I understand that two furry creatures named Millie and Lennie — a female badger and her son — are to be the centrepiece of the Green-

wich millennium logo. Expect sackloads of tourist badgerabilia.

Summit up

FURY in the Tuscan hills. Italian devotees of Radio Ciantini — a one-priest local station — are appalled that the BBC has annexed their station for the purposes of the EU summit in Florence.

The BBC World Service insists that Florentine ex-pats will be the wisest for the takeover, and



"Think before you score. Do you want John Major to benefit from the feelgood factor?"

that Tuscans will not miss their delightful Italian language station for long. "It is usually a rather sleepy operation, and the local priest is often hauled in to comment," says a local. "But it covers politics, culture and current affairs better than the BBC."

John Major evidently has no faith in England reaching the Euro 96 semi-finals. He has arranged to give a crucial speech on the constitution to the right-wing think-tank the Centre for Policy Studies, where Tessa Keewick is director, at exactly the time the game kicks off.

Fair Queen

THE SORRY fall of Lord Brocket is good news for the art market. His home, Brocket Hall, has already been put up for sale, and now his paintings are to be auctioned.

The first major work to go is this late-16th-century portrait of Elizabeth I. The picture, characterised by Sir Roy Strong as "The Brocket Portrait" is of the English School and expected to go for £60,000-£80,000. An X-ray shows that the artist initially intended to depict the virgin Queen in old age, but was then persuaded to change his conception of the face to show a



The "Brocket" portrait

youthfulness belying her 60 years. The artist, unlike the camera, could always lie.

Peter O'Toole has pulled out of an Edinburgh publicity tour for the second part of his autobiography, *Loitering With Intent* — because he is "deeply ashamed" of some of his countrymen in the light of the IRA's bombing of Manchester. "He is very upset by the latest actions of the IRA, and as a result has decided to postpone his tour," says the publisher.

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BLAIR AT WORK

Could the Labour leader defy his continental partners?

Tony Blair, in Bonn this week, said that he wanted to "rethink the whole of our philosophy in relation to the labour market". Job security cannot, he argued, come from over-regulation. Instead, "the best long-term protection a modern employee can have is to be equipped to succeed." According to Mr Blair, skills and employability are better protectors than employment law, particularly since "the impact of non-wage costs on total employment costs cannot be ignored." These are notable words from the leader of a left-of-centre party — even New Labour.

Whether Mr Blair can be believed may be clearer tomorrow, when the party is due to launch its policy document on rights at work. Its title alone suggests a Blair touch: *Building prosperity — flexibility, efficiency and fairness at work*. The indications are that it will promise not to reverse any Conservative trade union legislation. Secondary picketing, for instance, will continue to be outlawed and ballots will have to be held before all strikes.

More provocatively to Labour's paymasters, Mr Blair is likely to drop his predecessor's pledge that all workers will have employment rights from the first day at their job. This commitment will probably be replaced by the statement that two years (the current threshold before rights can be claimed) is too long, particularly in the case of unfair dismissal. But no specific time period will be offered in its place. John Smith made his promise to the trade unions at the TUC conference in September 1993, the meeting immediately before the Labour conference at which the one-member-one-vote reforms needed union support. At that time, the modernisers (prime among whom was Mr Blair) were unhappy with this Faustian pact. Now its terms will be softened.

Labour, however, may make other promises that could bring unions back into workplaces that have managed perfectly well without them. Under the party's proposals, if a majority of the relevant workforce votes in a ballot for union recognition, then the employer must grant it for the purposes of bargaining on pay, hours, holidays and training. What "relevant" means is not yet clear. Would it be a majority of one craft within a company, or one department, or the whole workforce? These questions are important.

Also critical is what employment legislation would be imported across the Channel once Labour signed up to the social chapter. At the moment, the only two directives concern parental leave and works councils. The first would give three months' unpaid leave to parents with the right to return to their jobs. Under the second, large companies would have to set up works councils; many with overseas subsidiaries have done so already. The existence of Britain's opt-out, however, has made the other countries wary of passing stronger laws.

If a Labour government were to join, pressure might build for tougher regulation. Mr Blair seems to believe that he can prevent this from happening. It is true that some areas — such as social security, dismissal rights and trade union rights — do require unanimity. But legislation in other, loosely-defined areas such as "working conditions" can be passed by qualified majority vote. Would Mr Blair, as Prime Minister of a Labour government, be prepared to stand out against a European drive that claimed to improve workers' rights? To do so would require a will of steel. To believe that Mr Blair would do so requires a very special credulity.

BURMA BETRAYED

Foreign investment sustains an inexcusably brutal regime

Just under a year ago, the Nobel peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi was released from six years of solitary house arrest in Rangoon — a confinement which Burma's generals never attempted to justify by bringing charges. Her release was said to be unconditional. As we argued then, that ought to have meant that this extraordinary woman, who has never ceased to appeal for national reconciliation through respect for human rights, should be free to heal the wounds inflicted by Burma's long years of military dictatorship. In particular, it should have freed her to rebuild the National League for Democracy, a peaceful popular movement that obtained four-fifths of the votes in the 1990 parliamentary elections only to see the verdict swept aside by the SLORC, the junta's State Law and Order Restoration Council.

When they released her, the SLORC calculated that six years of crushing oppression, during which hundreds of Daw Suu Kyi's supporters had been jailed and thousands of Burmese forced to sign denunciations of her and the NLD on pain of losing their jobs and homes, had sufficed to break the spirit of democracy. They therefore reasoned that the gesture would increase the flow of foreign aid and investment; and that it was safely empty, because Daw Suu Kyi was politically a broken reed, whose release would pose no further domestic challenge.

They were right on the first count; investment has poured into Burma. But they were wrong on the second. Daw Suu Kyi has not raised no rabble, rattled no sabres; on the contrary, she has avoided all provocation, never ceasing to remind the crowds of ordinary Burmese who risk arrest by flocking to her door each weekend that they should be patient, moderate and disciplined in their quest for democracy. But she has not wavered in her demand for a new, genuinely democratic constitution for Burma, and the example of her unbroken spirit is reviving

her people's courage. By these peaceful means she has wrongfooted the SLORC, which is now abandoning its earlier pretence that she and the NLD can be ignored.

Last month, the regime attempted to intimidate her into abandoning a three-day NLD party conference by detaining 258 NLD members, allegedly "to avoid anarchy". At least 35, according to Amnesty, are still in jail. The conference went ahead and 10,000 people rallied, cheering, to her house in defiance of a ban on gatherings of more than 50. The SLORC's response was to pass a law aimed directly at her and the NLD. It imposes a 20-year jail sentence on persons who advocate an "unauthorised" state constitution or, in the catch-all phrase beloved of dictators, commit "acts disturbing public order". Organisations guilty of either offence will be banned.

Whatever the junta may claim, Daw Suu Kyi would never have been released in the first place but for international pressure; that pressure should again be applied. Governments, investors and individual tourists should answer her appeal for a boycott of Burma, made on the ground that foreign currency shores up the regime without benefit to her countrymen. Her argument is reinforced by a UN report in April confirming Burma's widespread use of forced labour in tourism and infrastructure. Passengers on the Orient Express liner, which Sea Containers has spent \$10 million refitting for cruises down the Irrawaddy, may plead ignorance of slave labour: they will not see it. The British Government cannot pretend. It admits that the situation "has recently deteriorated"; yet at the same time the DTI is helping to promote Burma as a new Asian tiger and is backing two high-profile trade missions to Burma this year. Public money would be better spent informing the private sector, including tour operators, that their investment sustains in power an inexcusably brutal regime.

FEEL-GOOD FOOTBALL

Winning isn't everything but it makes a magical change

England's defeat of Holland was a prodigy for more than the record books. Suddenly everyone feels better. Road-ragers honk their horns in delight. Young drunks roam the streets chanting benevolently rather than threateningly. Both sides' notorious fans, belying their tribal warpaint, mingle peacefully on the streets. Even those who cannot distinguish a football from a football sense a tingle in the air. How potent is a win at football.

It is no less than 30 years since England last beat a major footballing power in a tournament: and the mysterious connection between sporting success and national morale has been known ever since. Harold Wilson claimed that England's victory over Germany in the 1966 World Cup was worth 20 points in the opinion polls. He even blamed England's defeat in 1970 for his loss of that election a week later. John Major, who knows as much as Terry Venables about failure and recommitment, was understandably prompt with his fulsome congratulations to the England squad.

The match was won with style as well as power. England outplayed the old Dutch masters of total football at their own game. In addition to the hard athleticism of the English leagues, they showed the progressive movements, the short interpassing, the running off the ball, the prestidigitated and

of the Seventies famous. On the night to remember, for once everything went right. Gaza not only flaunted his lateral thinking, but lasted for more than 90 minutes without emulating either lobster or grampus. Shearer and Sheringham ended their long runs of not scoring what they are paid for. That third goal was a passing masterpiece of selfishness. Overnight England have become second favourites and the opponents to fear.

Thus has a previously predictable and plodding Euro 96 been banana-kicked into new life. Sport has always had this curious power to project people occasionally into love or hate, despair or something approaching happiness. The earliest Western literature records the triumphs and disasters of the games, their sublimation of man's baser instincts into the symbolic mock combat known as sport.

Traditional flaming June after the bitter spring may take some responsibility for the general euphoria. So can national pride, relief and surprise. But if England's cricketers at Lord's today could show the success, the class and the delight in their work of the footballers... if the footballers could beat Spain in equally heroic style on Saturday, and so advance to the semi-finals and even the final... if we could win some of our other bigger battles with Europe: why, we should be in a whole new ballgame.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Growing pressure for Ulster peace

From Mr Raymond Crandon Gill

Sir, Membership of the United Kingdom implies mutual collaboration for the collective good. In most clubs it is quite normal for the members to vote to expel disruptive elements.

Now that the population of Northern Ireland have had the opportunity to vote for the parties who will provide democratic representation at the Irish peace talks, and in the light of John Major's and Tony Blair's growing pressure on Sinn Féin to deliver an IRA ceasefire (report, June 19), would it not be appropriate for the rest of the United Kingdom and Ireland to hold referendums to decide whether Northern Ireland should remain part of the United Kingdom?

The possibility of a referendum would help to concentrate the minds of those politicians who seem set to oppose the concept of peace.

Yours faithfully,
R. CRANDON GILL,
20 Rosemont Road,
Richmond, Surrey.
June 19.

From Mr Lewis Stretch

Sir, What Northern Ireland needs is a genuine peace, not a sham to sustain a "peace process" that panders to and encourages the Southern Irish campaign, led by the IRA, to force it out of the United Kingdom.

For half a century before 1968, under more robust governments that honoured their agreements and the principle of self-determination, this had existed. The mayhem since then, as governments fudged the basic issue, is a classic example of the way to Hell being paved with good intentions.

No amount of casuistry can bridge the reality of the need for a border (the target of the IRA and their allies) between two incompatible communities. Until Eire withdraws its claim to sovereignty over the Six Counties there are no grounds on which honest politicians can approach the problem of creating better relations: indeed one might hope for close collaboration between the two Irelands.

Yours faithfully,
LEWIS STRETCH,
3 Laroc Close,
Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire.
June 17.

From Mr G. H. Gelberg

Sir, It does not help the cause of peace to declare that the IRA will not bomb themselves to the table. Any path that does not lead to negotiations with one's enemies will lead nowhere. The last ceasefire, which gave us all hope, stopped only when the peace process was perceived to have stalled unnecessarily.

Willingness to negotiate with all parties is not appeasement. How would John Major and the Ulster Unionists feel were the IRA to attack crowded shopping centres on the mainland without prior warning?

Yours truly,
GEOFFREY H. GELBERG,
37 Haslemere Avenue, NW4.
June 17.

From Mr C. G. Thorley

Sir, Sinn Féin/IRA is often represented as simply a united Ireland. I believe it has two other aims: to become the authoritarian government of a united Ireland and to inflict as much damage as possible on Great Britain. I fear that if Ireland were united these motives would remain and there would still be no peace.

Yours faithfully,
C. G. THORLEY,
19 Penstones Court,
Stanford-in-the-Vale,
Faringdon, Oxfordshire.
June 17.

From Mr Lawrence T. Roach

Sir, Your leader, "Bloody Saturday" (June 17), correctly condemns Sinn Féin/IRA and those who have sought to reach a political accommodation with militant Irish republicanism. You are right to say that we must finally begin to judge the supporters of terrorism by their acts, not their words.

In doing so we shall merely be adopting the policy which Sinn Féin/IRA has always followed in its dealings with successive British and Irish governments. The men of violence have ever based their tactics upon the acts of compromise and concession which have invariably followed outbreaks of government outrage over terrorist incidents.

Your demand that Sinn Féin/IRA should accept that the "onus is on them to prove their commitment to peace by an irrevocable ceasefire and implementation of the Mitchell conditions for surrendering weapons" will surely be read as yet another invitation to the negotiating table. Your proposal offers infinite opportunities for yet more posturing, more delay, more threats of violence if another round of concessions is not made.

The time has surely come for the British and Irish governments to lead by the example you suggest. Sinn Féin and the IRA must be excluded from the process which they so contemptuously disdain.

Yours faithfully,
L. T. ROACH,
43 Ripon Way,
Borehamwood, Hertfordshire.
June 17.

Divorce Bill's support for marriage

From the Bishop of Oxford

Sir, It has been clear throughout the debate on the Family Law Bill (report, June 18) that marriage and family life remain central to the wellbeing of our nation. And whilst some Members of Parliament campaigned vigorously to defeat the Bill, most did so not because they opposed the institution of marriage, but because they wanted to strengthen and support it.

At the heart of this new legislation is the concept that everything should be done to ensure that saveable marriages are saved. In this and other ways it is a much better piece of legislation than our current, discredited divorce law. One of its greatest strengths is its commitment to the funding of organisations which support marriage through research, counselling and marriage preparation. But this great benefit can only be properly realised if future governments, whatever their persuasion, are faithful to this crucial part of the Bill.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD OXON,
Diocesan Church House,
North Hinksey, Oxford.

From the Executive Director, British Humanist Association

Sir, With such a high divorce rate in Britain, is it not time for the principle of "Till death us do part" to be removed from the standard Christian marriage vows?

Clergy would thus avoid some of the current double standards of remarrying divorced people in church. It would also reduce pressure for the reinstatement of the provision, rejected by the Commons, for spouses with strong religious views to be able to claim additional hardship in trying to block divorce proceedings.

Alternatively, the trend towards humanist and other marriage ceremonies will certainly continue. In these the particular vows are chosen by each couple, after much consideration and with a strong desire to abide by them.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT ASHBY,
Executive Director,
British Humanist Association,
47 Theobald's Road, WC1.
June 18.

From Lord Freyberg

Sir, The Government's consideration of Sir Michael Bett's independent review of the Armed Forces (letters, May 30; June 5, 11) brings back into focus the continuing pension injustices involving servicemen's dependants, especially their widows.

As a result of concessions secured from the Government on behalf of war widows last year, many elderly widows, most of whom lost young husbands in the Second World War, have had their lives transformed.

But, at the same time, Parliament rejected calls for fairness for the youngest group of war widows and for thousands of service widows now well into retirement age. The 2,000 younger post-1973 war widows asked to be allowed, on remarriage, to keep the occupational pension to which their late husbands contributed.

Service widows whose husbands were not killed but fought on through conflicts are now left with pitifully inadequate pensions because of an arbitrary time bar.

In ignoring their plight last summer, the House of Commons gave the clear inference that these issues would be fully and properly addressed during the Ministry of Defence's consideration of the Bett report.

What Bett recommends as fair and proper for the next generation of servicemen and their dependants — for example, the payment of one-half-rate widows' pensions of life — must also be due to those who have completed their service. Older widows have to

live in the same expensive world as their successors, but have to manage under the provisions of a pension scheme which reflects the social norms of 30 or 40 years ago.

I trust the Government will give due attention to this outstanding business when they make their definitive statement on Bett this summer.

Yours faithfully,
FREYBERG,
House of Lords.
June 12.

From Surgeon Vice-Admiral Sir John Rawlins

Sir, I was saddened by the letter from Mr Bryan Easy (June 5). I have a high regard for the Civil Service and dislike odious comparisons, but the respective pensions of the Civil Service and the Armed Forces presumably take into account the risk factor.

I long ago lost count of my fellow serving officers and men who were killed in the course of their duties, both in peacetime and during hostilities, more often than not leaving widows and fatherless children.

With very few notable exceptions, MoD civil servants are generally not required to fly, dive, stand in the firing-line or take part in hazardous experiments.

Those who do should certainly receive the same pension considerations as serving personnel.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN RAWLINS,
18 Chawton Close,
Harestock, Winchester, Hampshire.
June 6.

Benefit fraud

From Miss Emma Newham

Sir, You report (June 11) that the Shadow Secretary of State for Social Security, Chris Smith, is launching a campaign aimed at tackling housing benefit fraud if Labour forms a government. However, his proposed methods of verifying claims are unwieldy compared with what can be, and is being, achieved by biometric technology.

Many countries are using, or preparing to use, biometrics to secure welfare payments by positive identification of claimants. A widely favoured system requires claimants to sign on using an electronic pen, which detects personal writing characteristics (pressure, speed, etc) as well as the signature itself. The system is virtually impossible to cheat.

The Department of Employment has installed an automated signature verification system, covering about 22,000 recipients of unemployment benefit. When this was first initiated

in 1994, a number of regular claimants no longer turned up to sign on. But progress has been painfully slow.

In Spain some seven million welfare claimants are already enrolled on a biometric system, and a system operating in a single county of California is expected to have made savings of some \$200 million by next September by preventing claimants from using false names.

The National Audit Office has estimated that some £1.4 billion could have been paid out last year in fraudulent claims for income support. In addition, housing benefit claims of up to £2 billion could have been fraudulent. Most, if not all, of these false claims could have been prevented by biometric technology.

Yours faithfully,
EMMA NEWHAM,
Editor, *Biometric Technology Today*,
SIB Services,
London House,
Broad Street, Somerton, Somerset.
June 10.

Ups and downs

From Mr Anthony G. Phillips

Sir, Under the heading "Population boom time" (Management, June 13) we learn that the Government has accepted "a dramatic upwards revision of previous population estimates".

A day later we learn that the Office of National Statistics is forecasting that in 15 to 20 years there will be a fall in population.

Perhaps the Government has different policies to justify these different predictions. Maybe your headline, "Dentists to be paid extra for children" (also June 13), indicates one of them.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY G. PHILLIPS,
32 Upper Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire.
June 14.

Let's dance

From the Editor of Dance Europe

Sir, With a lottery producing funds wildly exceeding the original expectations, the folding of London City Ballet (report, June 18) is unforgivable, and an absolute scandal.

Yours sincerely,
EMMA MANNING,
Editor, *Dance Europe*,
PO Box 326, London N5 2J.

Tackling evil of cowboy builders

From Mr Ronald Bernstein, QC

Sir, Your report (June 14) an inquest verdict of unlawful killing upon an elderly man who committed suicide following the activities of cowboy builders.

The lack of protection (legal or practical) for householders against defective building work has recently been the subject of a report published by a committee of Justice which I chaired.

Our principal recommendation was for legislation to provide that a builder carrying out work to a dwelling above a relatively low threshold, should be obliged to provide a guarantee, backed by an insurance company, that the work will be completed to a satisfactory standard.

A builder who failed to provide such a guarantee would not be entitled to payment, and a householder who had paid for the work would be entitled to repayment.

Our proposals have been rejected by the present Government. Yet our report is only the latest in a series of investigations, some of them government-sponsored, which have all agreed that cowboy builders cause distress, anxiety and financial loss to great numbers of householders, many of them elderly, every year.

Whether any legislation could have averted this particular tragedy must be doubtful; but it is not high time that the evil of cowboy builders was tackled?

Yours faithfully,
RONALD BERNSTEIN,
103 Swain's Lane, No.
June 17.

The Paestum Diver

From Mr John Davis

Sir, I think the "passage from life to death" interpretation of the Paestum Diver (Arts, June 11; letter, June 19) is probably right. The 5th-century comic poet Pherecrates uses the Greek verb "to dive" of "plunging down to Tartarus" and the tragedians often use the image of a bird to signify a soul "winging its way to Hades".

The Diver has the elegance and poise of a bird in flight (itself the normal image in Homer of a god's descent from Olympus to the world of men).

Whatever the meaning, it is a beautiful picture in its own right, as you say.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN DAVIS,
(Head of Classics),
St Paul's School,
Lonsdale Road, SW13.
June 19.

Shaken, not stirred

From Dr James Chapman

Sir, Mr Raymond Benson, a Chicago computer-game designer, is to continue the adventures of James Bond. He is described by your reporter (June 17) as a Bondian expert, who "could tell you whether Bond stirred his tea clockwise or anti-clockwise".

This question, as any Bond aficionado worth his licence to kill will know, would never arise in the world of Ian Fleming. "I don't drink tea", Bond once said (*Goldfinger*, chapter 5). "I hate it. It's mud. Moreover it's one of the main reasons for the downfall of the British Empire".

It was another secret agent, a certain John Steed, that his partner in crime-fighting, Mrs Emma Peel, once remarked: "He likes his tea stirred anti-clockwise." (*The Avengers: The Forger-me-Knot*, January 1969).

Yours faithfully,
J. R. CHAPMAN,
75 Storch Lane,
Wales, Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

Becket's casket

From Mr Nicholas Payne

Sir, As David Barrie, Director of the National Art-Collections Fund, says of the St Thomas à Becket casket (reports, June 13, 15; leading article June 15), "If anything's heritage, this is it".

If the National Heritage Memorial Fund is prepared to give £12.5 million for the Church's papers, it should not hesitate to give a paltry £1.5 million for this rare and important treasure.

The public has only heard about its proposed sale three weeks before the sale date. An appeal should have been launched ages ago, so that we could have had a chance to save this wonderful casket which it is believed held a relic of that "turbulent priest". This treasure should belong to the nation.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS PAYNE,
The Mount, Whitley,
Macclesfield, Cheshire.

Split personality

From Mr Rodney V. Bird

Sir, I was intrigued to note in today's Times that the Captain General Royal Marines attended a reception at which the Duke of Edinburgh was present.

As they are one and the same person it would have been difficult not to.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
R. V. BIRD,
(Lieutenant Royal Marines (ret'd)),
1 Barnfield Avenue, Exmouth, Devon.
June 14.

OBITUARIES

FRANK MURDOCH

Frank Murdoch, aeronautical and marine engineer, died on June 13 in Nyon, Switzerland, aged 92. He was born in Antwerp on February 21, 1904.

MUCH is owed to Frank Murdoch for the production of the Hawker Hurricane fighter in time for its decisive role in the Battle of Britain. Yet his association with the aircraft came about through his marine engineering interests. He had gone to Germany in 1936 to be present at the tests being done on the MAN diesel engines which were to power the 1,600-ton motor yacht *Philante* that had been ordered by the chairman of Hawker Aircraft, Sir Thomas Sopwith.

Murdoch struck up friendly relations with the MAN engineers at Augsburg, and was invited to look round the production facilities for other German undertakings — namely diesel engines for U-boats and Junkers Ju 88 bombers for Heinkel III bombers. At a time when the British Government was still in a somnolent state about the German military threat to the peace of Europe — and the technical means which were being developed to carry it out — Murdoch was deeply impressed and alarmed by what he saw.

Returning to Britain to report to Sopwith on the progress of the engines for his personal pleasure craft, he had, in fact, far more to tell the Hawker chief about the threat posed by these advances in German engineering. (At that point, it must be remembered, Britain's biplane bomber and fighter forces would not have looked out of place in the skies over the battlefields of the First World War.)

Sopwith acted immediately. He ordered the production of 1,000 Hurricanes before any contract had been received from the Air Ministry. It was a brave and, as it turned out, a vital decision. Although the Spitfire is the more famous of the RAF's wartime fighters, it was in fact the Hurricane which, thanks to Sopwith's decision, was ready in sufficient numbers to stem the Luftwaffe onslaught in the summer of 1940.

Not only a pioneer of modern methods of aircraft production, Murdoch was also a skilled and enthusiastic yachtsman and played an important role in Sopwith's epic attempts to wrest the America's Cup from the New York Yacht Club with his boat *Endeavour*, a magnificent example of the giant J-Class yachts of those days.

Frank John Murdoch was born of a Belgian mother and a half-Belgian, half-Scottish father in Antwerp in Belgium, where his grandfather had founded a ship repair and dry-dock company, Guthrie, Murdoch & Co, which also had ship-building yards in Ostend and Antwerp.

He was educated at the Ecole Communale in Antwerp and then, in 1914, with the outbreak of war, at



Murdoch at the helm of the yacht *Endeavour* with the American heiress Elizabeth Meyer

school in Eastbourne. In 1919 he returned to Belgium to go to the Lycée d'Anvers in Antwerp, where he finished his schooling before returning to England as an apprentice with Campbell & Isherwood, electrical constructors, at Bootle, Lancashire. He combined that with engineering studies at Liverpool Technical College.

Between 1923 and 1925 he continued his apprenticeship with Harland & Wolff at Bootle before going back to Antwerp as an assistant manager in charge of outside work at Donche & Beukelaers, shipwrights and boat-builders. In 1932 he took an engineering degree at University College London.

In the meantime he devoted his spare time to sailing. It was thus that he first met Thomas Sopwith. In 1930 the two of them competed in a Ramsgate to Ostend yacht race in heavy weather. It was won by Sopwith by a mere five minutes from Murdoch, a margin all the more remarkable in its slenderness, given that the other competitors had turned back.

The outcome was that, in September 1932, Murdoch joined Sopwith's Hawker Engineering Company, working under Sydney Camm (later to design the Hurricane) and Roy Chaplin. In 1934 he was made responsible for improved methods of aircraft manufacture.

Sopwith had not, however, forgotten Murdoch's yachting expertise and ship-building experience. He brought him in on the design and development of his new racing yacht *Endeavour*,

being built to challenge for the elusive America's Cup. Murdoch designed *Endeavour's* 175ft welded steel-tube mast, its rigging and associated winches. In all these he introduced aircraft materials to ship-building practice.

After the America's Cup races in the United States — which were so nearly won by *Endeavour* — Sopwith asked Murdoch to survey the latest American methods of aircraft construction, especially new drop-hammer techniques designed to reduce hand-work in the sheet-metal shops. When, as a result of Murdoch's findings in Germany, the bold decision was taken by Sopwith and his board to tool-up for production of 1,000 Hurricanes ahead of any firm production orders from the Air Ministry, Murdoch was made directly responsible for works organisation, jigs and tools, provision of materials and sub-contract work.

He tackled these tasks with vigour and imagination. And his continental contacts came into their own. He was able, through a Swiss colleague working for the Belgian Government, to arrange for substantial orders to be negotiated for jigs and gauges from Switzerland. These included several large, and otherwise unobtainable, components which continued to reach Britain safely through Spain, Portugal and occupied France throughout some of the most difficult days of the war.

With the need for more aircraft assembly space and aerodynamic facilities, Murdoch was set to work to plan new Hawker factories, and the output of Hurricanes rose to 300 aircraft a

month by the middle of 1940, bringing a rare telegram of congratulations from the Minister of Aircraft Production, Lord Beaverbrook.

In 1942 Murdoch was sent to Camper & Nicholson, at Gosport to expedite the design and production of the 501 Class Motor Torpedo-Boats, together with electric canoes to be launched from submarines. Later, he went on to help in the development of high-speed MTBs with gas-turbine engines.

In October 1944 Murdoch was sent to the newly-liberated Antwerp with a Royal Navy team to recover for use the family shipyard at Antwerp, where he took charge of naval repairs. Until 1961 he was managing director of Guthrie, Murdoch & Company, for which he was appointed a Chevalier de l'Ordre de Leopold by the Belgians.

In retirement he continued his interest in sailing, captaining the British team in British America's Cup six-metre yacht races as well as being involved in Olympic contests and with the International Yacht Racing Union. He also acted as an adviser in the early stages of the first postwar challenge for the America's Cup. But what gave him most pleasure was his involvement, in the 1980s, in the salvage and complete rebuilding, financed by the American heiress Elizabeth Meyer, of the J-Class yacht *Endeavour*. Once this had been completed, he was delighted to be able to take the helm during her first sea trials.

Frank Murdoch's wife predeceased him. He is survived by two sons.

ILONA FERENCÉ

Ilona Ferencé, actress and dramatist, died on June 12 aged 78. She was born on October 10, 1917.



ILONA FERENCÉ was an actress of Hungarian descent, who discovered a talent for screenwriting in her middle years. She had a long professional association with the director Peter Cotes, and toured the coalfields of South Wales in the title role of his production of *Anna Christie*. She led an independent life, stemming perhaps from her peripatetic childhood. Ilona Ferencé was the eldest daughter of the violinists Ferenc Hegedus and Kate Buckley, and was born in Bar Harbour, Maine, during one of her parents' concert tours. Her childhood was spent travelling in Europe and at school in Belgium. She grew up in the company of artists and musicians, gained an aptitude for foreign languages and became bilingual in French.

When her family finally settled in London she and her two sisters were enrolled in the North London College of Music but, despite family wishes, she was more interested in the theatre than music. She became the youngest student to win a Leverhulme scholarship to RADA. There it was decided that her surname might be a handicap with English audiences. So by combining her own and her father's Christian names, she devised a pleasing stage name. On leaving she joined the Auden/Isherwood experimental theatre group at the Westminster Theatre for their production of *The Ascent of F6* and *The Insect Play*.

With the outbreak of war her excellent French brought her into Colonel Buckmaster's French section of SOE for the duration. In her spare time she was a guest actress with the American Theatre Unit. She appeared at the Scala Theatre in *Gaslight*, directed by Peter Cotes. It was her first collaboration with the director, and one which led to her joining his fledgling theatre company at the New Lindsey Theatre Club.

After opening in J. B. Priestley's *The Long Mirror* she was cast in *Elsa Shelley's Pick Up Girl* in 1946, an American play about child delinquency which contained explicit references to venereal disease and prostitution — dialogue of a kind never heard in public theatres before. It was hailed

as an important social document as well as compelling drama and, after intense pressure from critics, magistrates, probation officers, government ministers and a private performance for Queen Mary, the Lord Chamberlain agreed to license the play, uncensored, for public performance. Theatrical history was made and the play transferred to Her Majesty's Theatre.

Her association with Peter Cotes continued with two Arts Council tours to the South Wales coalfields — playing *Mrs Birling* in *An Inspector Calls* and the lead in *Anna Christie*. These were followed by *Rocket to the Moon* at the St Martin's Theatre and Cotes's season at the Manchester Library Theatre, where she repeated her triumph in *Anna Christie*.

In 1949 she was in the Glyndebourne production of *Ariadne auf Naxos* at the Edinburgh Festival, playing Nicolette in the centrepiece from *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme* together with Miles Maleson (who was a godfather to her older son). It was a glittering production, with Sir Thomas Beecham conducting and costumes designed by Oliver Messel.

Films never interested her but she was a fine television actress. Her roles tended to be

down-trodden, working-class English women rather than the continental sophisticates that might have been the most obvious casting. That dozen of television critics Peter Black judged her performance as a Cockney mother, in the drama-documentary series *The Course of Justice*, to be quite outstanding.

In 1953 she married Antony Kearey, a former acting colleague. He became head of plays at Associated Rediffusion Television and this encouraged Ferencé to try her hand at writing. She became expert at dramatising novels and short stories. ATV produced her adaptation of de Maupassant's *The Necklace* in 1955, and followed it with her rewriting of Elizabeth Bowen's *The Skeleton Clock*, then Ray Bradbury's *The Fruit at the Bottom of the Bowl*. For Associated Rediffusion she made a fine adaptation of Nigel Balchin's *The Fall of the Sparrow*, and for radio, during the 1970s, she contributed a couple of original plays and a Patricia Highsmith dramatisation. She continued to take occasional television roles until bad health, during the last ten years, finally made her retire.

Divorced from her husband, she is survived by her two sons.

PETER FLETCHER

Peter Fletcher, musician, writer and educationist, died from cancer on May 21 aged 60. He was born on February 9, 1936.

PETER FLETCHER was a controversial educationist who left a marked impression on many young musicians.

From 1966 to 1973 he was the staff inspector for music at the Inner London Education Authority. His appointment to the post, a leading one in music education, caused considerable surprise among more conventional thinkers. Fletcher was only 30 and his previous experience had been

in Yorkshire, a world away from inner London, where he would have to assume responsibility for music in 1,400 schools and institutions.

Fletcher was educated at Cranleigh and at Jesus College, Cambridge, where he was organ scholar. His National Service was spent as conduc-

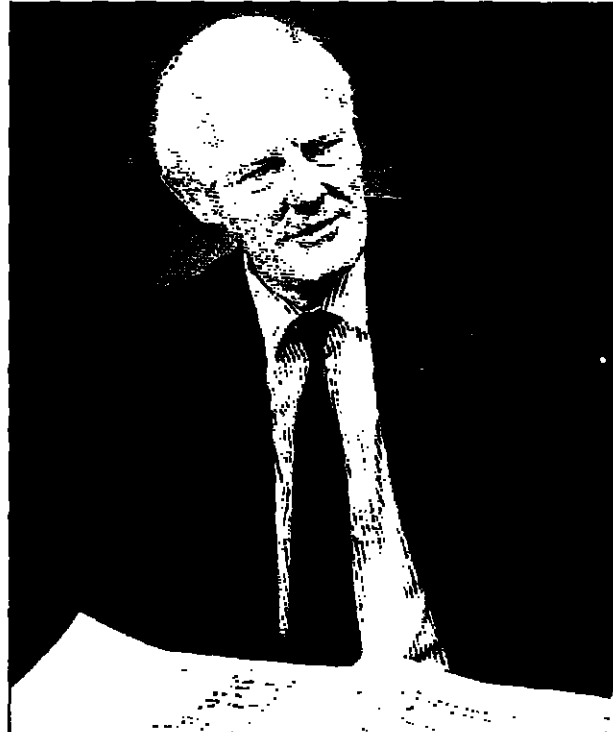
tor of the Royal Signals Orchestra, and his first teaching post was at Uppingham. After two years there, he took up the joint appointment as music adviser to the county council of the East Riding of Yorkshire and organist and master of the choristers at Beverley Minster.

He came to London in 1966, to take over music at the ILEA. At the same time he became the new conductor of ILEA's London Schools Symphony Orchestra. Under Fletcher's direction the LSSO achieved remarkable standards, and was quite unflinching about attempting some of the most demanding works of the modern canon.

Fletcher also launched the Centre for Young Musicians, originally in Pimlico School. He intended this as a counterblast to the junior departments of the London Conservatoires, where talented ILEA students had received musical training on Saturdays at the authority's expense. Fletcher felt that the teaching offered by some of these junior departments was quite inadequate, and he gathered together a team of distinguished teachers to form his own Saturday school.

He was not just interested in talented children. He wanted to create possibilities throughout the education system, and he pioneered classroom activities in primary and secondary schools that would stimulate curiosity about all kinds of music — pop, folk and classical. He created the Cockpit Ensemble to this end, a group of composers and performers which visited schools holding workshops.

After his seven years at



ILEA Fletcher took up the post of professor and head of the music department at Dalhousie University. His first book, *Roll Over Rock*, which examined the place of music in so-called 'primitive', Oriental and Western societies and the development of rock music, grew out of his popular lectures.

He returned to England in 1977 as principal music adviser to the Leicestershire Education Committee. With the Leicestershire Schools Symphony Orchestra, as with its London counterpart, he promoted new music by professional composers and students. The large Indian community in the county en-

couraged him to go to India, to study their different musical traditions.

His last move, in 1987, was to the Welsh College of Music and Drama, as its new Principal. He was determined to bring it into the league of the top British Conservatoires and to shape it into a model institution. But it was not a happy experience. The radical changes he set about making were met by fierce opposition from some of the staff and students. After five years of bitter confrontation he resigned, and with his health now seriously undermined, retreated to his cottage in Snowdonia which remained his base until his death.

Writing became more important to him, and his second book *Education and Music* caused more fluttering in the dovecotes of the new orthodoxy in music education. World music, too, became a consuming passion. He used invitations to conduct lecture or examine as a means to travel to far-flung destinations. He carried out extensive research into the music of Asia, Africa and the Americas. His comprehensive book *World Music in Context* was completed for publication shortly before his death and should appear next year.

Peter Fletcher is survived by his two sons, his marriage having ended in divorce.

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Simple Pleasures

SHALL WE RE-DISCOVER THEM?
(From A Correspondent)
It is true that the visitor to London, looking at
the mere surface of things, still thinks that
there is little outward evidence that half the
world is at war; although the true Londoner,
who reads his miseries, is aware of many and
profound changes. But London, being the
headquarters of organized pleasure, is nec-
essarily also the centre of that feverish unrest
that is the inevitable accompaniment of a state
of war, and being the centre also to which the
millions who are on service of various kinds
return for their brief snatch of concentrated
holiday, the actual business and machinery of
pleasure in some degree responds to the
general stimulus. But you must go to the
country, and study the country life that really
still is England more than any city life can be,
to realise the changes that are being wrought
in people's lives. Externally there is no change
in rural England, except for the absence of
young men from the villages. And in the
people's working lives the changes, although
many, are not obvious: here and there a
munitions factory trembles and roars day and
night in what was a year ago some green and

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ON THIS DAY

June 20, 1916
Some of the sentiments here could
equally have been expressed during the
Second World War

peaceful solitude

here and there you notice the
unfamiliar figures of women at a task that has
been exclusively associated with the work of
men. But it is not in their working hours so
much as in their spare hours that people feel
and see the change; and most of all it is visible
in the character of their recreations.

Like so many other things

since the dawn of
machinery a century ago, pleasure has been
becoming more and more complicated. The
years ago have long ceased to regard them as
anything but part of the machinery of their
lives; but within the last five years, with the
advent of the cheap and efficient car, there has
been created an enormous middle-class

population to whom the possession of a car has

been a kind of definite and final goal which
they have set themselves to attain.
Now the motor-car has perforce gone, or is
going, out of thousands of lives which it for a
period irradiated with its somewhat baleful
joys. Its surrender has often been an act of
very real self-denial and patriotism; but it has
left the bereaved ones face to face with the
problem of how they are now to amuse
themselves — pleasure and amusement of
some kind being as essential to man as his
daily bread. And people are being forced now
by note back through the scale of pleasure
which they ascended with chromatic rapidity;
and many of them are not a little surprised to
find in the lower tones, now that they come to
dwell upon them, a pleasure which they did
not realize in the hasty flourish upwards to the
high note of the motor-car. Here the motor
bicycle has been substituted for the motor-car;
there, at the abandonment of the motor
bicycle, everywhere the pony trap is being
raised from its low estate as a purely carrier to a
serious vehicle of pleasure. Here and there
people have even discovered that they have
legs, and can walk; and that, primitive and
clumsy as that form of locomotion seems, there
are satisfactions associated with it which
perhaps they had done less than justice to.

Yeltsin says hardline